

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Two-step
The Lynn Seymour story.
Part 1: With Ashton
and MacMillan
Wet side story
Fashion Page casts
an eye over rainwear
Race and creed
Roger Scruton looks
behind the racist banners
Hard lines
The headaches of
office: Richard Owen on
the difficulties facing
Konstantin Chernenko
Billy's boys
Clive White talks to
Billy Bingham, manager
of the Northern Irish
shooting stars on the
eve of their last
meeting with England in
the home football
championship.

Britons die
in Swiss
avalanche

Two British women teachers and two other people believed to be ski instructors were swept to their deaths yesterday in an avalanche at Saas Grund in Switzerland. Several children in their charge were believed to have been buried by snow but were not injured.

China seen as
world leader

The five great powers of the twenty-first century will be China, Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States and West Germany, a poll taken in 10 Western nations predicts. Page 4

Multiple births

Experts in test-tube baby techniques are becoming increasingly divided in their views of the risks of multiple pregnancies, and some advocates are restricting the number of embryos implanted. Page 3

Under pressure

The Commercial Union insurance group will be pressed for a statement following a 28 per cent jump in share values and week-end speculation that the company may sell its loss-making American arm. Page 15

Safety action

The Department of Trade and Industry will announce proposals shortly to introduce severe penalties on importers, manufacturers and traders who supply unsafe goods. Page 3

Chess draw

The tenth game in the world chess semi-final between Gary Kasparov and Vassili Smyslov ended in a draw, the seventh draw in the series.

Sikhs back down

Sikh leaders in the Punjab called off a week of planned demonstrations after the Indian government agreed to a constitutional amendment. Page 8

Jackson crowds

The Rev Jesse Jackson drew the largest crowds in the New York primary campaign in Harlem. He aims to capture more than 20 per cent of the votes cast. Page 8

Bar monopoly

A committee of the Bar meets today to consider a response to last week's call by solicitors for equal advocacy rights in higher courts. Page 3

Airfields selloff

The Government has told the Civil Aviation Authority to press ahead with plans to sell eight airfields in remote parts of the Scottish Highlands and islands. Page 15

Cap fits at last

Injuries to five squad players have assured the Liverpool left back Alan Kennedy of his first England cap nine years after his first call up. Page 18

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Letters: On Scott Lithgow, from Professor J. Pickett, and Sir William Lithgow; citizenship, from Mr D. Carter; youth training, from Mr R. Hurst.
Leading articles: The Queen in Jordan: Unions and political levy; Defence Intelligence Staff.
Features, pages 10, 12
Unions at the abyss: Paul Routledge on the mining dispute; The sounds of democracy being silenced; Ferdinand Mount decries talk of authoritarianism; Spectrum: Lynn Seymour's return to the classics; Monday Page meets the grass-roots gourmets.
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Father Karl Rahner, SJ, Mr Rene Calforth, Mr Jack Howarth.

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Industry optimism
at highest
level since 1976

By Sarah Hogg and Jonathan Davis

In its most confident report on manufacturing prospects since the mid-1970s, the Confederation of British Industry today forecasts that economic growth in Britain should continue well into 1985.

And a report from a leading City economist argues that the Chancellor will have scope for large tax cuts over the next four years even if his key assumptions prove too optimistic.

However, the CBI forecasts no reduction in unemployment by 1985 – and a special report from another City stockbroker forecasts a further rise in unemployment by the end of the 1980s.

The CBI's March survey of manufacturing trends, based on replies from 1,800 companies shows that the balance of firms expecting to increase output over the next four months is higher than at any time since September 1976, well before the recent slump. Of the firms, 39 per cent expected to raise output, while only 7 per cent expected to reduce it. The proportion of firms reporting order books below normal was only 7 per cent, compared with 41 per cent in April 1983.

The balance of firms expecting to raise prices over the next four months was 35 per cent, slightly lower than in January or February.

The CBI's post-Budget forecast, published with its monthly trends inquiry, predicts that manufacturing output will grow

by 3½ per cent in 1984 and by 4 per cent in 1985. This means the CBI is even more optimistic about manufacturing recovery than the Government.

Sir James Clesington, chairman of the CBI's Economic Situation Committee, said the survey "points to the recovery becoming more widespread, with the improvement no longer confined to the consumer goods sector."

The CBI believes the improvement in exports and investment is spreading expansion to other areas of manufacturing, although it expects Britain to continue losing some of its share of world markets. It expects productivity to continue rising rapidly in manufacturing, by 5 per cent both this year and next. However, that means it also expects the number of jobs in manufacturing to continue falling.

For the economy as a whole, the CBI is forecasting 3 per cent growth in national output this year, slowing to 2 per cent next year, closely in line with official forecasts. But the CBI believes unemployment will be higher, on average, this year than last and stay at this level in 1985.

A special analysis published today by the stockbroking firm Capel Cure Myers argues that jobs will not be created fast enough to provide for the increase in the labour force between now and 1990.

Capel Cure Myers follows other leading City analysts in

arguing that the Chancellor's plans for controlling the level of public spending are too optimistic, but Mr Gavyn Davies, the economics consultant to the stockbroker Simon and Coates, calculates that the Chancellor has plenty of room for tax cuts in successive years.

If his Budget assumptions on growth and inflation are borne out, Mr Davies says, Mr Lawson can make tax cuts totalling £3,500m between now and 1989 – the full sum allowed for in the Chancellor's own published strategy.

And if inflation rises 1 per cent above the Chancellor's forecast Mr Davies argues that Mr Lawson might have £1,000m more to give away each year, provided he did not increase his cash limits for public spending.

An early warning on inflation is given by Sir James Clesington. Although the CBI's forecast shows inflation remaining "roughly stable", Sir James gave some hint of the CBI's nervousness about the recent trend in wage claims. He said the sustained moderate pay settlements.

The CBI's post-Budget forecast points to a further increase in company profits. "The real return before tax for industrial and commercial companies is expected to rise from 6½ per cent in 1983 to 8½ per cent in 1984 and remain at roughly this level in 1985.

Jobs outlook, page 15

Curb on employers
deducting levy

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Employers are to be prevented by law from deducting the political levy from trade unionists who tell them they do not wish to pay it under a significant change to the Trade Union Bill to be introduced in the Commons today by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment.

But the expected concession appeared unlikely last night to be sufficient to head off a rebellion on the Bill's report stage by some Conservative backbenchers angry over the Government's decision not to change the basis of the levy by giving all trade unionists an automatic right to exemption.

They are to press to a vote a new clause, which Mr King has refused to accept, which would change the basis of the levy from one of "contracting out" as at present, to one of

"contracting in" in which trade unionists would have to opt to pay the levy to the Labour Party.

Almost ninety MPs had signed the new clause by the end of last week. Mr King will oppose it because of the voluntary deal he reached last month with TUC leaders for a code of guidance under which it would be made easier for union members to contract out if they wished. His view is that the voluntary agreement must be given a chance to operate but he has indicated that if it proved unsatisfactory the Government would legislate.

Mr King will, however, accept in principle, an amendment to be moved by Mr Timothy Renton, president of the Conservative Trade Unionists, making it illegal for

Continued on back page, col 4

Three lost
in steel
plant blast

From a Staff Reporter

Three men were missing, presumed dead last night after an explosion at the British Steel works at Lakenby, near Middlesbrough, Teeside. Cooling pipes were ripped open, flooding the underground cellar plate mill where they were carrying out maintenance work.

Police divers searched in vain for the men. It is understood that oil leaking from hydraulic gear onto hot steel plates may have caused the explosion.



Soldiers' new chief: President Suazo Cordova flanked by guards after his television address to the nation.

Honduran President ousts military chief

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

The chief of the armed forces in Honduras, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, has been removed from office with three other generals by the civilian President, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova.

Reports from San José say that the four generals have been offered political asylum in Costa Rica.

General Alvarez, often seen as the real power behind President Suazo Cordova's two-year-old democratic Government, was ousted swiftly and efficiently.

He was escorted to the

airport on Saturday morning and was in Costa Rica even before his family became aware of what had happened. His wife heard the news over the radio as she waited for her husband at a christening, at which the general was to have been godfather.

The radio said simply that his resignation had been accepted, along with that of his chief of staff, General José Bueso Ros, the naval commander, General Rubén Montoya, and the police chief, General Daniel Balli Castillo.

President Suazo Cordova,

the aging country doctor who became the nation's first elected head of state after 13 years of military rule, had assumed control of the armed forces.

It later emerged that the manoeuvre had been supported by the Air Force commander, General Walter López Reyes, the man now most likely to replace General Alvarez, and a group of disaffected junior officers.

Western diplomats in Honduras expressed profound surprise at the turn of events. Few had credited the President with

enough influence on the military to topple General Alvarez, despite growing internal dissatisfaction at a style of leadership that was said to be arrogant and avaricious.

In a broadcast on Saturday night to a calm but stunned nation, President Suazo Cordova reiterated his view that the Army had no business to be dealing in politics.

War games: Honduras began a new round of war games with the United States yesterday despite the sudden resignation of the four military leaders (Reuter reports).

EEC price deal threatens
one in six dairy farms

By Colin Hughes

The EEC agreement on farm prices and production quotas which comes into force today will cut British milk production by 200,000 gallons a year and leave about 300,000 dairy farms being slaughtered.

One in six of Britain's 58,000 farms with dairy holdings could be forced out of business, angry farmers claimed after community ministers reached an agreement on the common agricultural policy at the weekend.

The deal will nonetheless halve the EEC's milk prices and production quotas. In the United Kingdom, there are now 170,000 tonnes of dried skimmed milk in storage, and 100,000 tonnes of butter. Throughout Europe 900,000 tonnes of butter are being stored.

The cuts will be the result of

a seven per cent reduction in Britain's dairy quota. Milk producers would pay a super levy, making profitable production impossible, if the quota was exceeded.

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday accepted that dairy farmers would be "in for a rough time" but rejected suggestions that consumers would be hit by price rises. "There is just too much surplus around," said a spokesman.

Out of the 13 million cattle in Britain, more than three million are now dairy producing. Farmers can stem their yield to meet the new quota by either feeding the cows less or by killing them for beef.

The beef herd of 1,300,000 will be largely unaffected by the deal, although a 20 per cent reduction in the special subsidy could mean more high-grade beef being exported.

The community already has a 400,000-tonne beef surplus and Britain's exports are expected to rise by 50,000 tonnes to 629,000 tonnes this year.

The remainder of Britain's cattle are the breeding or "culling" cattle which are sold to the Continent. Many now face the slaughter instead of pasture.

Under the deal Dutch and West German dairy farmers suffer the same 7 per cent quota reduction, and only the Irish will be able to produce more. EEC countries consume 88,000 tonnes of milk a year.

Despite every member country's acceptance of price increases well below their inflation rates, agriculture will still cost the EEC at least £500m more than it has available.

Expensive night, page 6

Pretoria
recalls
UK envoy

Cape Town (Reuter, AP) – South Africa has recalled its ambassador to Britain for urgent consultations after four South Africans and a Briton were charged in Coventry with illegally exporting military equipment to South Africa.

The five appeared in court on Saturday accused of breaching a United Nations embargo on sales of strategic goods to South Africa, involving components used in anti-missile weaponry.

Mr Botha said the recall of the ambassador, Mr Marais Steyn, was linked with the arrests but he gave no details. The accused were named as Stephanus de Jager, aged 49, a financial manager; Jacobus le Grange, aged 38, an engineer; William Metelerkamp, aged 41, a managing director; Hendrik Botha, aged 49, a company director; and exports buyer Michael Swann, aged 32, of Royston, Hertfordshire.

Sunday newspapers have said the four South Africans worked for Armscor, the Government-controlled company which supervises development of South African weapons in the face of the embargo.

Since its creation in 1961 as the Munitions Production Board, later called the Armaments Development and Production Corporation, Armscor has succeeded in making South Africa a weapons exporter.

Opponents of Pretoria's racial laws regularly accuse Western, and even some Eastern block, nations of ducking the embargo by selling items which South Africa uses to build its arms industry.

In addition to a full line of infantry weapons, Armscor has developed multiple rocket launchers and missiles. In 1982 it unveiled what has been described as one of the world's most mobile pieces of artillery, the G6, a tyre-mounted, long-range gun suited for extended forays over rocky terrain.

Pit vote
veto as
police
move inBy Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

The leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers made a move yesterday that it had not been seen of calling an emergency meeting of the executive to consider a national strike.

Miners' police reinforcements were drafted into the mining area last night as it was anticipated that there would be clashes today between miners and pitmen who have been asked to return to work.

The campaign to win maximum backing for the stoppage was continued yesterday as the union's executive met in a closed session.

Working out the price of his union's cooperation.

Mr Surs said that his union was likely to withdraw support

Nearly 90 per cent of trade unionists think the National Union of Mineworkers should hold a national strike ballot, according to a survey conducted on Friday and Saturday by Market & Opinion Research International.

If the vote favoured a stoppage, 45 per cent would be prepared to defy the law to support the pickets, compared with 26 per cent if no ballot was taken.

In a National Opinion Poll conducted for the Mail on Sunday, 69 per cent of NUM members supported a national ballot.

from the action unless the transport unions agreed to black steel imports in return.

Speaking on *Weekend World*, Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, insisted that there was no prospect of a ballot being called before the scheduled executive meeting on April 12. Even then, he said, they would do no more than "monitor" the situation.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, said in a radio interview that pressure for a ballot was coming from outside the union and was designed to prevent miners in Yorkshire and Scotland defending their jobs.

However, pitmen from at least four Lancashire collieries will try to return to work today after a decision by a delegate meeting at Bolton on Saturday to withdraw support for the strike.

The vote was finely balanced and led to Mr Sid Vincent, the Lancashire area secretary, saying that they were "split down the middle".

Yesterday, miners at two of the seven pits in Lancashire, Bold and Sutton Manor, both near St Helens, decided to defy the decision of the delegate meeting and continue the stoppage.

They will try to "picket out" colleagues at other pits returning to work.

Continued on back page, col 6

Family Week.
1st to 7th April.

Family Week is a special time for The Children's Society.

It is a week when thousands of our supporters not only raise money, but show the entire country just how The Children's Society helps those in need.

Each year, nearly 7000 children and families benefit from our work.

But there are still many more who need our help. So please see if you can spare a little time to help us during Family Week.

Would you be able to organise a door-to-door collection in your parish? Or run a fund raising event?

Or join others in your area already donating a few hours of their time for the children in our care?

Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated. By both us and our family of thousands.

Please complete the coupon below and return it to: the Church of England Children's Society, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London SE11 4QD.

Name Address

I would like to organise a door to door collection in my parish during Family Week. (Please tick)

I am pleased to donate £ towards the Family Week appeal. (Gifts over £10 can be covered.)

The Children's Society.

Government policy being breached in public and private sector pay deals

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Fresh evidence has emerged that the Government's strategy on pay and its 3 per cent guideline are being breached throughout public and private industry.

In the latest "Bargaining Report" published by the left-wing funded Labour Research Department, private sector workers are said to be getting rises of 7 per cent, while those employed by state-linked bodies are winning increases of more than 8 per cent.

Basic assumptions made by the Cabinet on the way wage rises are being questioned are also questioned in a confidential report by the Manpower Office of Manpower Research.

PAY SETTLEMENTS Aug 1983-Feb 1984			
	All agreements	Private sector	Public sector
No of agreements	2,100	1,800	300
No of workers covered	2,100,000	1,800,000	300,000
Weighted average % rise	7.1%	5.17%	8.10%

New Act would raise rents

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Ministers are planning a new Rent Act, aimed at increasing private sector rents and encouraging new landlords into a market which is shrinking at the rate of 100,000 homes a year.

But Mr Ian Gow, the Minister for Housing, has ruled out any move to abolish the fair rent system under which rents are fixed at a notional amount which disregards the principles of demand and scarcity.

There have been strong Conservative demands for the abolition of rent control and a

return to the free market; the new legislation will therefore disappear in the Conservative right wing as well as the Labour Opposition.

Nevertheless, Mr Gow, who served as Mrs Thatcher's close parliamentary aide for four years in the last Parliament, is determined to halt if not reverse the decline in the private rented sector.

He told the Conservative Party conference last year that rent control had dried up the

supply of accommodation and injured the people it was meant to protect.

The private rented sector has plunged from 8.5 million homes after the Second World War to about 2 million today, from about 80 per cent of the market after the First World War to about 10 per cent today.

Abolition of rent control would reverse the trend, but it would also impose an impossible housing benefit burden on the Treasury.

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'Forgotten' Greene novel to be published

By Patricia Clough

A novel by Graham Greene, which has been lying forgotten in a Hollywood vault for nearly 40 years, is to be published next spring.

The book, titled *The Tenth Man*, is set in France immediately after its liberation from German occupation. It is believed to be about hostility between Parisians who collaborated with the Germans and those who resisted.

It was written by Greene for the MGM film company under what he calls a "slave contract" which meant that it wholly owned the work. It was not filmed and the manuscript was forgotten until MGM recently offered it to Mr Anthony Blond, a British publisher. He bought the world rights for £3,000.

Plans to publish the novel were intended to remain secret, not to detract attention from Greene's next book *Getting to Know the General*, which is due to be published this autumn. But the author made the disclosure himself in an interview published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

In it, Greene told Norman Leach that he had forgotten about the novel. "As far as I remembered it was an idea I had jotted down on two sheets of notepaper."

When he was told it was going to be published he did not take it seriously at first. "But when it reached me I saw it was a short novel of some 60,000 words. I had obviously written and revised it thoroughly."

"I was planning to use all kinds of blackmail to stop it being published. Then to my disgust I found it was really rather good, in fact better than *The Third Man*."

The Third Man is Greene's early film masterpiece written three years later and set in postwar Vienna.

The novel will be published by Mr Blond and the Bodley Head and, according to *The Sunday Times*, MGM is reconsidering making a film of it. Under his old MGM contract Greene, it seems does not stand to make a penny out of it.



Marathon men: Mr. David Musgrove (left) who has been totally blind since the age of 22, and his "human guide dog", Mr Peter Felix, competing in a 13 mile half marathon at Thamesmead, south-east London yesterday. They hope to raise £20,000 for the British Disabled Water Ski Association.

by competing in the London marathon in May. Mr Musgrove, aged 42, runs tethered to Mr Felix by a flexible cord. They completed the course in under two hours 10 minutes. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

VAT on rebuilding 'devastating to conservation sites'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Save Britain's Heritage group is launching a campaign today to try to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer to withdraw his decision to extend value-added tax to all building reconstruction work from June 1. The group claims that the action will have a devastating effect on the conservation of historic buildings.

At present the renovation of historic buildings is competitive in economic terms with new building, which is VAT-free, but the heritage group says that individuals and organizations in the field of conservation are considering whether they will be able after June 1 to restore decaying historic buildings on a viable commercial basis.

In a report published today the group concludes: "The results of Mr Lawson's Budget are bleak. Building preservation trusts will no longer be able to buy, repair and sell derelict buildings. Some will become insolvent or eventually bankrupt."

The irony, it believes, is that the Chancellor will not collect his 15 per cent VAT because people will no longer wish to renovate older buildings. They will leave them to decay and demolish them or build new buildings elsewhere. "In the

next five years if Mr Lawson's changes are implemented the number of applications to demolish listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas will increase dramatically. The number of consents to demolish will rise accordingly, and Britain's architectural heritage will be drastically, brutally and irrevocably diminished."

The plea comes on the day of the official launching of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, whose chairman is Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, it takes over responsibility for the Department of the Environment's ancient monuments in England other than royal palaces.

Mr Lawson. You Have Damned our Best Hope for Britain's Historic Buildings. (Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX, £1).

● The Duke of Edinburgh is to chair an inquiry into the state of Britain's housing, initiated by the National Federation of Housing Associations. It will take a year to consider evidence, with particular emphasis on the difficulties facing those with low or limited incomes. Its recommendations will be presented to the Government in April, 1985.

Back united Ireland, Reagan told

By Richard Ford

President Reagan has been urged by Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, to condemn the partition of Ireland during his visit to the republic in June, and to make Irish unity a main objective of United States foreign policy.

Mr Haughey told 5,000 cheering delegates at his party's annual conference in Dublin on Saturday that such a declaration would be a tribute to the contribution which Irish Americans had made to the building of the US.

He said that the US had the capacity to bring Britain to play a constructive role in the Northern Ireland question.

"This is a problem of the Western world. It is a very black spot as far as the Western democracies are concerned and America should have a positive position in regard to it," Mr Haughey said.

His attempt to draw the president into Anglo-Irish relations is likely to cause embarrassment in Washington and anger in Britain.

Crystal ball falls short of prediction

By Geraldine Norman

Sotheby's offered a crystal ball in New York on Saturday, but although a number of magicians and fortune-tellers attended the sale they proved not to be as rich as Sotheby's had foretold. The ball sold to an art collector for \$38,500 (estimated \$50,000 to \$60,000), or £26,551.

The flawless rock-crystal ball is supported by a Japanese silver dragon with a sinuous scaly tail and ferocious fangs. It dates from the Meiji period and was sold to an American collector of Japanese art, bidding over the telephone.

The two-session sale of Japanese art totalled £491,680 but 23 per cent was left unsold. British dealers were well represented but were most often outbid by American collectors.

An American paid \$26,400 (estimated \$20,000 to \$30,000), or £18,206, for a pair of cloisonné enamel vases of the Meiji period decorated with flowers.

At Christie's in New York a sale of art nouveau and art deco attracted very competitive bidding.

Drive for economic intelligence starts

By Peter Hennessy

A new drive to gather economic intelligence on Britain's potential enemies and commercial rivals is under way in Whitehall after a top-level review of the secret Cabinet Office organization responsible for its assessment and use.

The review was stimulated by Sir Peter Middleton who became Permanent Secretary to the Treasury last Easter. It represents a striking change of policy on the Treasury's part after several years in which the value and importance of economic intelligence had been downgraded and the staff devoted to it cut.

The work is supervised by a secret Cabinet committee of officials known in Whitehall by

its initials, JIC(EA) [Joint Intelligence Committee (Economic Assessments)]. Its members include representatives from the Treasury, Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence, Department of Trade and Industry, M15, M16, and the Government Communications Headquarters.

● From today staff at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham will be subject to lie-detection tests on the polygraph which has been introduced as part of the security vetting procedure after the Geoffrey Prime case. (Our Cheltenham Correspondent writes).

Leading article, page 13

MEP will fight Welsh by-election

By Our Political Reporter

Mrs Ann Clywd, European MP for Mid and West Wales and a member of Labour's national executive committee, will contest the by-election at Cynon Valley, south Wales.

Mrs Clywd, a Welsh speaker, defeated Mr Bryan Davies, former MP for Enfield, North, Mr Reg Race, former MP for Wood Green, Mr Gwilym Roberts, former MP for Caerphilly, Mr Caeffwrdd, former MP for Brecon, and Radnor and Mr Alun Williams, a local official. She received strong support from union branches.

Some party leaders expect the poll to be held soon to capitalize on Labour's improved showing in the opinion polls. Mr Ian Evans, who died in February, had a majority of 13,074 for Labour at the general election.

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Brittan plan for weekend jailing

By Philip Webster

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is planning new measures to reduce prison overcrowding by extending the probation service order system to fine defaulters and diverting mentally disordered offenders, away from prison custody.

He is also to publish proposals foreshadowed last November to make some offenders serve sentences at weekends only or on one day a week, within the next two or three weeks.

To fulfil his declared aim of ending prison overcrowding by the end of the decade, he is expected to introduce changes in an important criminal justice Bill which is being planned for later in the present Parliament.

About 25,000 people a year are imprisoned, usually for short terms, for failing to pay fines. But Mr Brittan has said that imprisonment in those cases should be only a last resort.

Cautions widened

Scotland Yard is widening the use of cautioning to handle some offences as a way of improving police efficiency and economizing on the use of court time.

The policy began yesterday and means that cautions can be administered for a range of offences.

In general the caution will be administered at a police station by an officer of the rank of inspector when an accused has admitted guilt. The caution will be kept on an adult-cautioning index for three years.

Hope of £200 million air deal

From Edward Townsend

Rio de Janeiro

A new international aerospace collaboration deal between Britain and Brazil could bring an initial £200m contract and up to 20

Importers and traders face severe penalties under unsafe goods law

By Robin Young

The Department of Trade and Industry is to announce proposals to introduce severe penalties on importers, manufacturers and traders who supply unsafe goods, following West Germany's example over the past 16 years.

Mr Alex Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, told the National Consumer Congress in Liverpool yesterday that proposals to introduce a general legal obligation to supply safe goods would be announced "in a month or so".

Earlier, delegates in the conference working group was told by trading standards officers that consumer protection against dangerous goods in Britain was in "an appalling state of crisis".

Mr Paul Allen, chairman of the policy committee of the Institute of Trading Standards, said: "The past 10 years have

seen things deteriorate to the stage where we cannot be sure of anything in the market place".

The congress passed a resolution, championed by Mr Allen, deploring the lack of effective enforcement against counterfeit goods, particularly where safety was involved.

The examples cited included unsafe brake parts for the HS748 passenger aircraft, which carries up to 60 passengers, were found to be made of mild steel which would have melted in an emergency stop.

Other unsafe counterfeits included eye drops without active ingredients, and contraceptive pills which were not genuine.

Mr Allen said that Mr Fletcher's announcement marked "a major step forward", even though the Minister emphasized that the new legis-

lation would have to be enforced within the existing resources. In the case of most unsafe goods, now on sale, action could be taken only after they had reached the shop.

Mr Fletcher also announced that he hoped to introduce a Bill by the end of the year to make it more difficult for insurance companies to disallow customers' claims on the ground that they had failed to disclose relevant facts when proposing or renewing their policies.

That would be in line with a recommendation made by the Law Commission in 1980 that the proposer's duty of disclosure should be subject to the test of reasonableness.

Legislation had been delayed by technical drafting difficulties but would, Mr Fletcher said, leave much less doubt as to what information was required when taking out insurance.

Food fat guide considered

The Government is considering the possibility of some foods and drinks being marketed with details of their animal fat content as a health guideline to consumers.

Foods with high levels of cholesterol, such as meat, butter and eggs, have been linked with increased risks of heart disease. Many health experts are advocating radical changes in diet.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the possibility of labelling foods with their animal fat contents was being considered, but that no approaches had been made to the food industry.

Veteran 'Street' actor dies

Mr Jack Howarth, the actor who played the grumpy pensioner Albert Tatlock in *Coronation Street* since its first episode, on December 9, 1960, died in Llandudno general hospital, north Wales, on Saturday. He was 88.

Mr Howarth, who had appeared in about 1,700 episodes, was last seen on television on January 25. The producer of the series, Mr Mervyn Watson, said yesterday: "He was due back later this month".

Pay telephone

British Telecom has refused to install an additional public telephone kiosk at Silverdale, north Lancashire, for economic reasons. But villagers have raised more than £500 to pay for the box.

Dartmoor rescue

Helicopters yesterday rescued 18 young people who spent a freezing night on Dartmoor practising for the Ten Tors expedition.

Bar looks at attack on advocacy rights

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A special committee of the Bar under its chairman, Mr Michael Wright QC, meets today to consider a response by barristers to the Law Society's newly-launched offensive for equal rights to plead in higher courts.

Last week the solicitors' professional body announced that in view of the Government's intention to end the conveyancing monopoly, it was seeking the removal of similar restrictive rules giving barristers sole rights of audience in Crown Courts and above.

The campaign could lead to the first serious clash between the two branches of the profession since the issue was last vented before the Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1979.

Solicitors have long wanted rights of advocacy in the higher courts, particularly Crown Courts, and spurred by the decision on conveyancing and the Government's stated desire to tackle professional monopolies generally, they feel that the time is ripe for another attack.

The effects on the Bar of

extending rights of advocacy would be unquestionably severe. With two thirds of the 4,800 practising barristers in England and Wales doing criminal work, and Crown Court work accounting for half that work the loss of the Crown Court monopoly could severely damage the lower end of the criminal Bar.

Up to 2,000 barristers could be forced out of the Bar, some possibly to become solicitors, and there would be a serious threat to the viability of many specialist criminal chambers and circuit chambers. Numbers entering the Bar would also be reduced.

The Bar also argues that the public will be disadvantaged. Instead of a solicitor briefing counsel of his choice, the client would be faced with the litigation solicitor in that firm, or be obliged to change solicitors.

Solicitors, however, say that the public must have unfettered choice of advocate as between solicitor and barrister.

Barrister urges blacklist of defaulting solicitors

The Bar is being urged to take stronger action against solicitors who fail to pay barristers' fees by adopting a blacklist of defaulting firms.

The measure, which would mean chambers refusing work from solicitors' firms on the list, was rejected in December 1982 when the issue of payment of fees last came to a head.

Instead, barristers adopted a compromise scheme proposed by the Bar's leaders under which defaulting solicitors are reported first to the chairman of the Bar, who pursues the claim for fees and if unsuccessful, then reports the solicitor to the Law

Society.

But Mr Robin de Wilde, proposer of the blacklist measure, says the scheme has been a failure.

In an article in the *Law Society Gazette*, he says he intends to revive his proposal at a meeting of the Bar this summer. "The fact that the Bar may not care for the proposal", he writes, "but how said 'that the disgraceful situation' of delayed fee payment would continue until they appreciated how the junior members of the Bar were consistently exploited by the small number of solicitors".

Too many kidney patients die

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The number of patients with kidney failure treated by dialysis in hospital could be more than doubled from 1,417 a year without extra investment in beds or machines, according to a survey in *The Lancet*.

Patients could be treated for up to six hours three times a week, instead of 14 hours twice a week, with staff working in shifts for 24 hours daily six days a week.

But such a programme would require many extra nurses, technicians and assistants.

The *Lancet* says Britain has the lowest acceptance rate for treatment for kidney failure of any leading European country, despite doing more kidney transplants.

The *Lancet* says: "It is now clear that more people are allowed to die of chronic renal failure in the UK than in any comparable European country. The reason is of course money".



Gravy train: Hayley Griffiths, aged seven, (right) and Jimmy Endicott, aged six, from Doncaster, South Yorkshire, after winning the first Bisto Kids of the Year title and a prize of £1,000 at the Fortune Theatre, London, yesterday.

Seven pairs of children reached the final of the fancy dress competition that brought to life the cartoon characters who first appeared in 1919 (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Stricter censorship of video 'nasties'

By Patricia Clough

Video cassettes will be controlled more severely than cinema films when the Bill banning video "nasties" becomes law next year, according to the Bill's sponsor, Mr Graham Bright, Conservative MP for Luton South.

The British Board of Film Censors, which will have the task of classifying video cassettes according to age groups and banning the most horrific, has been advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions to apply stricter standards to adults-only cassettes because they could be seen by children.

The advice, in the shape of informal guidelines, is aimed at harmonizing the attitude of censors and prosecutors towards cassettes, because even when they have been classified

they will still, like films, be subject to possible prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act.

The DPP's office, Mr Bright told *The Times*, believes that a film seen on video in the home is more likely to "deprave and corrupt" than the same work shown in a cinema, where children can be kept out and where violent or sexually explicit scenes are seen in the context of the whole film.

At home adult-rated films could be accessible to children and potentially harmful parts could be repeated, "frozen" or played in slow motion.

The DPP's office and the censors decline to disclose further details of the guidelines for judging videos, to the irritation of the British Video-

gram Association, which represents video makers. "It is like telling people not to drive too fast but refusing to say how fast is too fast", Mr Norman Abbott, chief executive, said.

Mr Bright said that the Bill, which goes to the Lords today, is having an effect already. "The trade is backing off like mad, the supply is already drying up", he said. The Bill is expected to be approved this summer.

Mr Bright defended his refusal to press for a ban soft-pornography cassettes along with "nasties", despite pressure from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mrs Mary Whitehouse, of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, and some of the churches.



Family fashion: Jemma, sporting a track suit, and her mother, Nina Carter, the model, at a preview of British Home Stores summer collection yesterday. A fashion show in aid of NSPCC will be held in London today.

£395m for ice creams

By Robin Young

The British ate more ice cream than the Italians last year, licking through £395m worth, the equivalent of 85 ice creams each, a Lyons Maid report published today says.

The average consumption in Britain was 5.7 litres per head, compared with four litres in Italy, the product's traditional home.

Britain's consumption, as-

sisted by a rare fine summer, was none the less left in the shade by other nations, the report says. The Americans eat almost four times as much ice cream as Britons do, and the Australians three times as much.

The British weather being a notoriously fickle friend, the industry looks to a big influx of American tourists to help to maintain its sales this year.

Study dispels jobs myth

By Patricia Clough

The assumption by many employers that there is no point in promoting women to executive jobs because "they only start having babies and leave" is dealt a severe blow by a survey published today.

The study, by the Institute of Personnel Management, finds that only 16 per cent of executive women in personnel

careers take breaks for marriage or child-bearing.

The survey, which was sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission and reported in the April edition of *Personnel Management*, the institute journal, also contradicts the assumption that women have little credibility when dealing with shopfloor workers or negotiating with manual unions.

Threat to plans for book subsidies

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Plans for the Arts Council and the publishing industry to join forces in an attempt to lower the price of quality books to the public have emerged as a hidden victim of last week's Arts Council shift of grants.

The creation of a literature investment trust, backed by £60,000 from the council in the first year, and an equivalent amount from the publishing industry, now seems certain to be scrapped.

Mr Luke Rittner, the council's secretary-general, has said that the decision on the trust's future is a matter for the council's own literature panel.

But the panel saw its budget cut by half to £450,000 last week.

The trust was designed to offer subsidies to book buyers similar to those available to theatre and opera-goers. It would have reduced the price of selected books chosen by a committee of publishing industry representatives and Arts Council officials.

The scheme's supporters say that that would have been a particular help in the provinces, which the council strategy is designed to strengthen.

Mr Michael Holroyd, the biographer and former vice-chairman of the literature panel, who was one of the scheme's originators, said yesterday: "Quite frankly, I cannot see it going ahead."

Doctors are divided on multiple births

By Thomas Prentice, Science Correspondent

Experts in test-tube baby techniques are becoming increasingly divided in their views of the risks of multiple pregnancies among women who undergo the treatment.

Dr Robert Edwards, who pioneered the technique with Dr Patrick Steptoe at Cambridge six years ago, said yesterday that the births of triplets and quadruplets in many parts of the world to mothers who have had *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) treatment were now too numerous to be explained without further research.

He and Dr Steptoe, who have supervised the birth of 400 test-tube babies, have been advocating restrictions on the number of embryos implanted in women seeking a pregnancy, to two or three.

Dr Edwards said that "an arbitrary decision" limiting the number of embryos that should be transferred in an IVF programme will not be in the patients' best interests.

Professor Craft, who has delivered 20 test-tube babies, including triplets born in January and twins last December, challenges some of the views previously expressed by Dr Edwards and Dr Steptoe.

"Until IVF and embryo transfer become more predictable, the number of embryos to transfer should be a matter for clinical judgment," he writes.

Dr Edwards said: "We went from the implantation of one embryo to two and then to three very cautiously, and we have now decided to restrict the number to three. For Professor Craft and others, the implantation of six or seven embryos continues to be acceptable."

Science Report, page 14



On 1st April, the responsibility for over 400 of England's most important historical sites passed into new hands.

The new guardian is the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

The Commissioners were appointed for their wide ranging conservation and other skills.

Our staff of over 1000 people includes archaeologists, architects, skilled craftsmen and scientists.

Our duties include formulating national conservation policies, making grants for preservation and the financing of rescue archaeology.

We plan to make each site even more enjoyable to visit by improving presentation and education facilities.

Our sites range from prehistoric monuments to 19th century industrial buildings.

All will display the English Heritage sign shown here.

Help us by joining English Heritage and in turn enjoy free entry to all our 400 sites plus Hampton Court and the Tower of London.

We are offering a **Special Founder Membership**, limited to the first 50,000 applicants, valid till 1st January 1986 for just £12, half price for children under 16 and senior citizens.

You will receive a membership card, a booklet about our sites, a map, and news of our developing activities.

Annual membership costs £8, half price for children and senior citizens.

Apply today and help us to preserve England's Heritage.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, Fortress House, 25 Savile Row, London, W.1.

Please complete this form and post (no stamp required) to:
English Heritage Freepost, 20-24 Lonsdale Road, London NW6 2YP.

I am applying for these Founder Membership(s) (valid till 1/1/86):
☐ Adult (£12 each) ☐ Junior under 16 (£6 each) ☐ Senior Citizen (£6 each).

I am applying for these Annual Memberships:
☐ Adult (£8 each) ☐ Junior under 16 (£4 each) ☐ Senior Citizen (£4 each).

Enclose cheque/postal order payable to English Heritage for £...
 Please charge £... to my American Express/Access/Bankcard*.

My Card number is

Signature
 NAME (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)
 ADDRESS

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England

Vocational training: 1

New curriculum sponsored by the Government

Technical and vocational training is being given in schools to 14-year-olds in a controversial programme funded by the Manpower Services Commission. Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, went to north Wales to investigate.

The change for decades is being orchestrated by the Government in England and Wales. It will shortly be extended to Scotland.

Designed to prepare children better for the world of work, it is happening quickly and almost by stealth, because of the lack of public awareness, in a scheme inelegantly titled Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative.

Children on the programme are given a mixture of technical and vocational training. The scheme is being rolled out in a number of schools across the country.

When the Manpower Services Commission announced in late 1982 that it was putting up £7m for the 14 education authorities which put in the best bids, there were protests in the educational world.

It would turn back the clock to the days of selection, critics claimed. It would divide children and bring back technical training for the working classes. Anyway, they asked, what was the commission doing invading and centralizing the education system?

Whatever the merits of their arguments, many authorities did not boycott the scheme, as some of their leaders had requested.

In Clwyd, north Wales, the headteachers decided to have nothing to do with it, but several schools broke ranks, and pioneered the initiative in Clwyd.

It has been running since September and has channelled about £58,000 into each of the five schools taking part.

Now all the head-teachers in the authority, seeing the way the wind has blown, and the cash and teachers which have come with it, are clamouring for a slice of the action. Clwyd is opening a central support unit and hopes continually to extend the scheme to all schools.

This autumn, the Manpower Services Commission is extending what is still called a "pilot" project to 46 more education authorities, at a cost of £4m in

the next school year and £20m a year in each of the four years thereafter.

Teachers and children to whom I spoke were enthusiastic. The teachers have found that the new courses motivate children because of their novelty and relevance, and that the injection of money is good for their departments, bringing in, for example, microwave ovens, chemistry equipment of microcomputers which benefit all the school.

Mr Adrian Farlam, scheme coordinator in Clwyd, said: "If you offer children something they want and sell it to them as something they need you are on to a winner."

"The children believe that they are being offered something they want. They are hooked on. The children are loving the curriculum now. Once it stops being fun it will stop working."

Mr Farlam rejects the suggestion that the scheme is a type of mechanical technical training and that the commission is having an undesirable centralizing effect on the education system. He says that the courses are designed to teach pupils to think and that it is a good thing that the commission is making demands on local education authorities, which in turn are making demands on schools.

But there are worries about how it is working. One of the most obvious is sex stereotyping, which privately many admit is rampant. Schools have found girls opting for courses which lead to traditional female jobs, home economics and looking after others, and boys choosing the technical and heavy craft courses.

There is also the danger that the education of those who choose to study the technical and vocational courses will suffer because of the unbalancing effect of cramming so much craft, design and technology into the timetable.

A further drawback, some say, is the large amount of money suddenly being injected into the education of a relatively few pupils, those on TVEI courses. The education of the rest, and arts and humanities departments are thereby relatively disadvantaged.

Schools in Clwyd reject some, though not all, of these criticisms.

Tomorrow: What the schools are doing.

Independent schools' shops offer

By Our Education Correspondent

Members of the Independent Schools Information Service Association are being offered discounts at high street stores.

The offer, open to anyone who pays the £8 annual subscription, is an attempt to increase the association's membership from 27,000 to 100,000.

A minimum of £30 of discount vouchers must be bought at a time.

They will give a 5 per cent discount on goods at W H Smith and Boots, and 10 per cent on musical instruments at Boosey and Hawkes. A 25 per cent discount is available on Western Provident Association's private health scheme and 15 per cent on Godfrey Davis European.

Other discounts are available at International Stores, Victoria Wine, Austin Reed, for concerts by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Halle Orchestra, and Royal Academy exhibitions.

The person behind the scheme is the association's director, Mr Michael Reeves, former head of the P & O educational cruise ship SS Uganda.

Mr Reeves said that the association, which is set up to lobby for private education, had made headway politically, but inflation, rising school fees and other costs were affecting parental choice. The scheme was an attempt to offset those expenses.

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Early Reagan-Chernenko meeting ruled out by Russian reluctance

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Describing relations with the Soviet Union as chilly, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has ruled out the possibility of an early summit between President Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Although the US was ready to attend such a meeting, so long as it was well-prepared and had a good chance of achieving results, he could detect no such willingness on the Soviet side.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Times, Mr Shultz also emphasized America's determination to "stay engaged" in the Middle East despite recent setbacks for US policy in the region. The Secretary of State expressed disappointment that

America's European allies had not been prepared to support the invasion of Grenada last year.

However, he felt the Atlantic Alliance had successfully withstood the stresses and strains caused by Grenada and other contentious issues during the past year.

The interview with The Times was held in Mr Shultz's office on the seventh floor of the State Department.

Mr Shultz spoke softly and with deliberation throughout the 40-minute discussion and appeared to show signs of strain caused by recent setbacks for the US in Lebanon and the Middle East and his current dispute with Congress over the 1973 War Powers Act.

Summit hopes

Good idea, but little response

On the subject of a US-Soviet summit, Mr Shultz said President Reagan believed a meeting would be a good idea, and he was ready for it if it could be prepared well and had some chance of producing something significant. "Whether that can come to pass is a very open question."

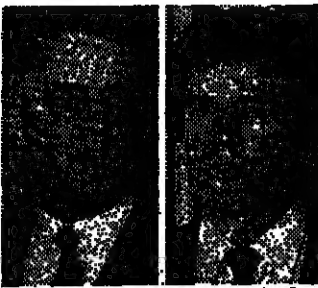
Asked whether preparations for a summit were in hand, Mr Shultz replied simply: "No." Although the US wanted to discuss a wide range of issues with Moscow, "We don't see a response from them."

The Secretary said Soviet responses to recent US initiatives aimed at improving relations between the superpowers were pretty chilly. The initiatives he was referring to included President Reagan's speech last January calling on the Soviet Union to join the US in negotiating nuclear arms reductions and two letters which the President has sent to Moscow since death of President Andropov two months ago.

Referring to the two stalled rounds of US-Soviet talks in Geneva on reducing medium-range (INF) and strategic (START) nuclear arsenals, he said: "In both (sets of negotiations), we have taken very reasonable positions - in one case, with consultation with our allies. We are there in a posture of give-and-take, and they have declined to stay there - they have left. So that is pretty cold."

The Soviet Union walked out of the INF talks last November after the deployment of US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. The START talks were suspended shortly afterwards and no date has been fixed for their resumption.

The Secretary made it clear he did not expect to see a significant change in attitude towards the US resulting from the recent change in Soviet leadership. He noted that a group of American academics and specialists who had recently visited Moscow had found a "very cold" atmosphere there.



Mr Mondale (left) and Senator Hart: Under fire.

Middle East

Withdrawal defended

On the Middle East, Mr Shultz said he did not accept the widely-held view that the withdrawal of American forces from Beirut had damaged US credibility and its relations with moderate Arab governments.

Mr Shultz, who was the chief architect of US policy in Lebanon and a strong opponent of the decision to withdraw, said the troops had fulfilled the mission they were originally sent there to achieve. By the time they were withdrawn, the internal situation in Lebanon had changed, he explained. The US was "confronted with a decision either to go in for a much more extensive military presence... or to shift the deployment of our forces."

He noted that the British had strongly favoured redeployment. The interview took place shortly before the US announced late on Friday that it was withdrawing its naval task force situated off the coast of Lebanon.

Asked if America planned to take any new initiatives in the eastern Mediterranean this year, he replied: "Well, we will stay engaged, and we'll have to see what emerges in the situation. But, of course, right now there is an election process under way in Israel."

"King Hussein has made a declaration (in a recent interview with The New York Times) that seems to put him on the sidelines for the moment. And, in Lebanon, there is an effort being made by the various groups there to try to put something together, and we will help with that if we can."

Despite recent setbacks, he believed most people in the

Middle East want the US to continue to play a role in the region. "In the Middle East, people are coming to us saying: 'Don't disengage, don't go away, don't get mad and throw up your hands and leave. That's the last thing in the world we want. Please stay here and exert your influence.'"

The Secretary described as damaging moves within Congress to pass legislation to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The proposal has been strongly resisted by the Administration on the grounds that it would harm relations with Arab countries.

Mr Shultz said it was a great shame that Mr Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, the front-runners in the race for the Democratic nomination, were "competing with each other to see how extreme their statements can be about Jerusalem."

The Secretary said the President had been prepared to fight for the sale of Stinger missiles to Jordan, which has also met strong congressional opposition. "We felt that we had a very good chance of winning the issue, but King Hussein's statement (to The New York Times) really pulled the rug from under that... It was much better to withdraw the proposal than to have a negative vote."

Referring to the Gulf, Mr Shultz stressed the need for regular consultations between the Western nations to discuss contingency plans if the Iraq-Iran conflict should lead to an interruption of oil supplies.

He praised Japan for its diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing a broadening of the conflict. He was critical of the British decision to supply military spare parts to Iran which he said was unhelpful.

Latin America

Havana gets blame

Turning to Central America, Mr Shultz laid the blame for continuing tension and subversion in the area with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

He conceded that economic under-development and political suppression were also responsible for the unrest, but said current US policy was intended to ease these problems.

Although the Reagan Ad-



Softly, softly: Mr Shultz appeared to show signs of strain.

ministration has been widely criticized at home and overseas for the increase in military assistance it is giving to El Salvador and other countries in the region, the value of economic assistance it provides is three times greater than its military aid programme. Mr Shultz added that the US would continue its diplomatic and economic attempts to prevent Cuba from spreading subversion throughout the region.

"But there is no plan for any military action against Cuba."

He expressed his dismay that Britain and other European countries had failed to back last October's invasion of Grenada by American troops and the overthrow of the pro-Cuban regime there. "We did what we felt we must do, and clearly we were disappointed that, not only in Great Britain, but in Europe generally, they didn't seem to give us any support for what we thought was a very clearly justified action and one that will clearly advance values that we and Europe share."

He admitted there had been a lack of consultation with the allies but rapid action was required. "There wasn't time for consultation. I'm sure that Mrs Thatcher could keep a secret, no doubt about it. But I am not so sure that if we broadened the pattern of consultation here, we would be able to keep the secret, so we would suffer from the access the press has to whatever is going on."

Mr Shultz said the US hoped that Britain and Argentina would sort out their differences over the Falkland Islands, but said the US had not been asked to mediate between the two. "This is essentially something that the British and the Argentines have to work out."

He indicated that the damage caused to America's relations with Latin America by its support for Britain during the Falklands War had been largely repaired.

Europe

No lack of confidence

On the subject of America's relations with Europe, Mr Shultz said he did not accept the view that there had been a decline in European confidence in United States leadership or that the United States was starting to look towards the Pacific at the expense of its Atlantic allies.

"I don't fail to recognize that there are stresses and strains. There always are when there is a relationship that is complex and has great scale to it... If the United States took the attitude that South America, Canada and Asia did not exist, that only Europe existed, I would think that would cause a great lack of confidence in Europe in the leadership of the United States," he concluded.

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Savimbi threat to Angolan cities

Jamba, Angola (NYT) - Mr Jonas Savimbi, leader of an insurgent movement that claims to control or operate in two-thirds of Angola, said he wants to talk peace and form a government of national unity with the country's Marxist leadership.

But at an unusual news conference in this isolated bush encampment, which he calls a provisional capital, Mr Savimbi said that if his offer were rejected he would carry his guerrilla war into Angola's cities.

He also threatened that if his pro-Western organization, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), was not accommodated in negotiations over neighbouring South-West Africa (Namibia) peace and stability in the region would not be secured.

Mr Savimbi, a bearded figure in camouflage uniform with a pistol at his hip and an ivory-handled swagger stick in his hand, has been battling the Angolan Government in a wide ranging conflict for more than eight years.

The impression created by his comments was that he was eager to win an acknowledged role in the American-sponsored peace initiative so his group would not be traded off for other concessions in the complex negotiations.

The peace initiative, he said, will not necessarily lead to peace and stability as long as Unita is not part and parcel of the process.

It was Mr Savimbi's first public statement since the South-West Africa initiative got under way in December.

He said 16 British technicians taken hostage at a diamond town six weeks ago and marched here through the bush, would not be released until Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, offered his organization some kind of recognition.

But 44 Portuguese and 17 Filipinos captured at the same time will be released, he said, as soon as the International Committee of the Red Cross arranges to take them out of Angola. Mr Savimbi is believed to be holding about 140 foreign prisoners.

South Africa and Swaziland signed a secret peace agreement more than two years ago. Like the recent non-aggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique, it binds each country not to allow its territory to be used by guerrillas against the other.

The South African Foreign Minister Mr R. F. Botha and his Swazi counterpart, Mr Richard Dlamini, disclosed the agreement, contained in letters between the heads of government in February 1982, after talks here on Saturday.

He said oil companies operating in Angola, including the American Gulf and Texaco organizations, would be viewed as targets for attack if they did not stop what he called lobbying against his organization in foreign capitals.

At a briefing on Friday, Mr Savimbi's intelligence spokesman said they had launched 373 attacks on Government forces since the beginning of December, 1983, and had been attacked only 103 times themselves.

They claimed bringing down Soviet-supplied helicopters, destroying five tanks and inflicting losses on both Government and Cuban forces. Prisoners from several towns said Government forces had put up little resistance when the insurgents attacked settlements.

The biggest attack claimed by Mr Savimbi took place last week when his forces were said to have overrun the provincial capital of Novo Redondo, also known as Sumbe, 700 miles north-west of here, and held it for a day.

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Poll sees China as future world leader

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The five great powers of the twenty-first century will be China, Japan, the Soviet Union, United States and West Germany, according to 10,000 people in 10 Western nations interviewed for a poll published today. Britain and France are not considered likely, even by their own citizens, to have a very bright future.

The poll was carried out by Gallup International for the Paris-based International Institute of Geopolitics. The 10 countries participating were: Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and Colombia.

Asked whether they looked forward to the twenty-first century with fear, hope or indifference, only respondents in the US, Korea and, to a lesser extent, Australia, looked forward to the future with confidence. In Britain, opinion was evenly divided between the three options.

France and, surprisingly, Japan showed the greatest apprehension, with the majority saying they were fearful of the future. Only 6 per cent of respondents in Japan said they approached the next century with hope, yet the Japanese placed themselves second only to China in their estimation of which would be the greatest nations.

Part of the explanation for that apparent paradox can be found in the Japanese view of whether they as individuals, felt their fate was tied to their country's. Less than a quarter of the Japanese answered affirmatively to that question, compared with the great majority of the French, Italians, Australians, Colombians and Koreans.

In Britain, opinion was divided, 48 per cent saying that they felt their individual fate

Bani-Sadr quits exile coalition

By Hahzir Teimourian

Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the former President of Iran, has left the National Council of Resistance, a Paris-based coalition of the Iranian opposition.

The council's formation was first announced in July, 1981, after the dramatic flight from Iran of Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Massoud Rajavi, the leader of the Islamic Mujahedin guerrillas, who have been the effective leaders of the council; Mr Rajavi has also become Mr Bani-Sadr's son-in-law.

Other parties and personalities, including the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the National Democratic Front, joined the council later.

In a communiqué released in Paris on Saturday, the Mujahedin organization announced that cooperation with Mr Bani-Sadr was no longer possible within the council's framework, but the two sides remained friends. No other details were given.

Mr Bani-Sadr preferred not to speak to the press on the issue yesterday, but friends mentioned the Mujahedin's contact with the Iraqi Government for his unhappiness with his position as council president.

Last year, he formally dissociated himself from a meeting which Mr Rajavi, the council's chairman, had held with Mr Tariq Aziz, then Iraq's Foreign Minister. Four days ago, he sent a telegram to the United Nations Secretary-General to condemn Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons in the Gulf war.

The split is a heavy blow to the Mujahedin's chances of consolidating their position as the largest Iranian opposition group.

Bodies found in window box

Hongkong (Reuters) - Blood trickling from a twenty-sixth floor balcony led to the discovery of two bodies cemented together, their hands chained behind their backs, in a concrete flower box in a block of flats here.

Firemen and engineers with electric drills and saws spent more than four hours breaking into the concrete tomb. Police wish to question an Indonesian who rented the flat earlier this year.

Chemical bound for Iraq held at Kennedy Airport

New York (Reuters) - United States customs officials are holding 1,100 pounds of a chemical bound for Iraq which could be used for manufacturing nerve or mustard gas.

A round-the-clock armed guard was put over the 74 drums of potassium fluoride, which was detained at New York's Kennedy airport on Saturday.

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And it's not hard to see why.

However you compare it to the other cars in the small saloon car class, the 1.3 Corolla just keeps coming out on top.

It has the lowest drag coefficient of them all. Which lowers fuel consumption and raises performance.

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So it's tougher and lasts longer.

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And with virtually every conceivable extra, from 5-speed gearbox, 4-speed heater and tinted glass to FM radio, rear seat belts and rear fog lamps, all fitted as standard, the Corolla represents far better value for money. (Especially as the saloon version only costs £5249 and the liftback, £5499).

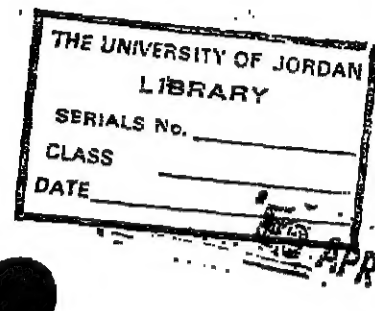
However, you don't have to take our word for it.

You can take 'Motor' magazine's. They recently reported that the Toyota Corolla is...perhaps the best yet from Japan!

Or you can take 'What Car?' magazine's. They put the Corolla and all its major competitors to the test. And if you read their January issue, you'll see the car that took all the honours was, you guessed it, the Corolla.

But whoever's word you take, see a dealer and take a test drive.

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TOYOTA

Farm price deal hammered out in 'a very expensive night for Europe'

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The most expensive farm price settlement in the EEC's history comes into force this morning. It was agreed by ministers who had, in fact, been under orders from the start of the year to slash the extravagances of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

One senior Commission official described Friday night as "a very expensive night for Europe."

The deal means an average price increase of 3.2 per cent in real money terms throughout the Community, and will, according to a very conservative Commission estimate, cost the community at least £544m more this year than it has available.

The cost is that high despite a feeze in the price of milk and a one per cent reduction in the price of almost everything else except durum wheat, rice and cotton. The underlying cause is soaring, unwanted production.

The settlement was reached on Saturday morning after an all-night session and means that regulations can be in place from today, the start of the farming year.

This is a very rare event and ministers reached agreement aware that delay would not only save any money but would make the expensive price-cut package even more difficult to sell to an already angry farming lobby.

Credit for pushing the deal through is in large measure due to M. Michel Rocard, the

WINNERS AND LOSERS

	Price rise in real currency	Inflation Rate
Britain	-0.8%	5.5%
West Germany	-0.6%	3.3%
Holland	-0.5%	3.1%
Denmark	+1.5%	5.3%
Belgium	+2.7%	6.5%
Ireland	+2.7%	9.0%
Luxembourg	+2.8%	7.7%
France	+3.0%	7.2%
Italy	+6.4%	10.6%
Greece	+17.6%	20.0%
EEC average	+3.2%	5.2%

French minister presiding. It means he can now pass back to President Mitterrand the responsibility for finding a way to end the community's troubles. That task could be complicated further by the high cost of the farm deal.

It is a measure of the malaise of the CAP that despite the huge cost there cannot be a single one of the EEC's eight million farmers who is anything but dismayed by the outcome of the negotiations - except, perhaps, the Irish dairy farmers, who successfully held agreement to ransom in order to obtain the right to continue increasing their production.

British, West German and Dutch farmers, who live in the Community's strong currency areas, have come out worst of all because their average prices go down by 0.5 per cent.

Apart from Greece - always a

special statistical case - the Italians with a 6 per cent increase and the French with 5 per cent do best. But in every country the new prices are at least two points below the rate of inflation, so the farmers really are being expected to lighten their belts.

Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, complained that the deal had been made "without any regard to the well being of agriculture or its contribution to the economy."

The sole purpose, he said, was to cut costs and the basic objective of the CAP - to achieve a fair standard of living for the farming community - had been disregarded.

The settlement means that the only outstanding issue in the Community is the budget problem. In consequence it will put further pressure on foreign ministers to make real progress towards satisfying British grievances when they meet in Luxembourg next week.

The cost means that, unless there is a quick end to the budget problem, money to pay the farmers everything they are owed will not be available.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, insisted writing into the minutes on Saturday that the British Government expected the Commission to do whatever was necessary to contain the cost within the £10,000m set aside for the CAP in this year's over-stretched Community budget.

That is a very clear marker

from Britain that it will not contribute anything extra when the Commission puts forward proposals to raise the money it needs to pay for the settlement.

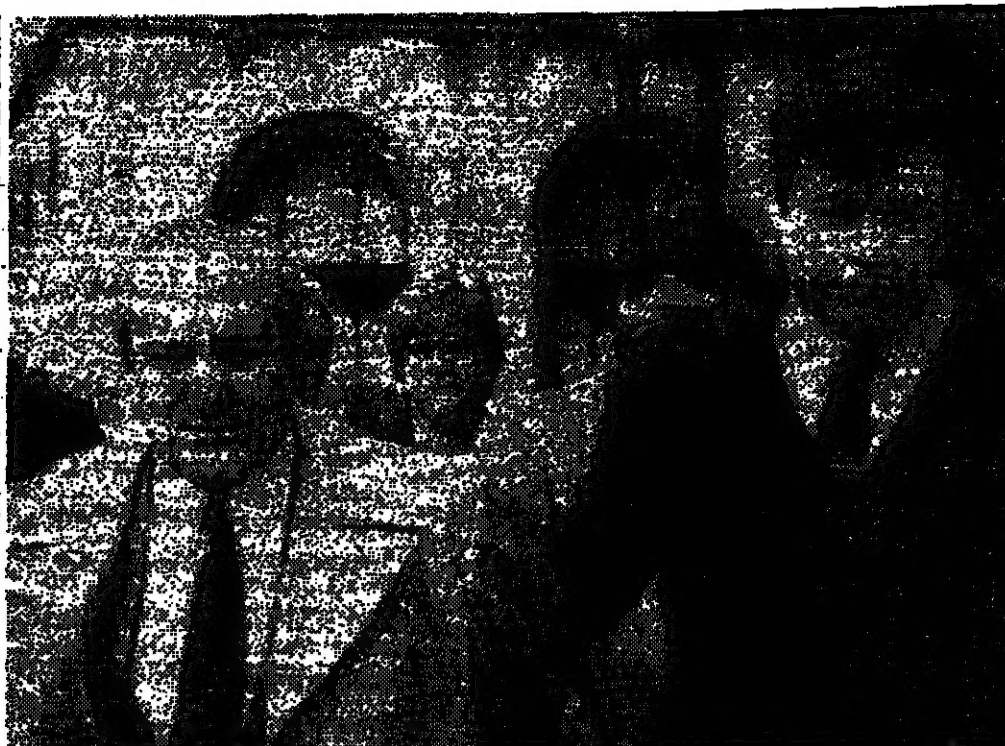
The chief individual extra cost has been the deal which allows Irish farmers to produce more milk while everyone has to cut back. Milk is more important to the Irish economy than steel is to the West German economy, and it was an appreciation of this which ultimately wrung the expensive concessions from other countries.

The Irish Republic is to be allowed to produce an extra 245,000 tonnes this year over and above its 1983 figure, with the promise of a real review for future years. Northern Ireland has been allowed to share in this generosity with an extra 65,000 tonnes quota this year.

On the other hand farmers in all other countries, except Italy, are being hit by a swingeing super levy to peg their production back to just one per cent more than in 1981, when the yield was significantly lower than it is today.

The inevitable result is that millions of cows will become "redundant" and thousands of small dairy farmers could be forced out of business despite a special £70m EEC fund to help them.

For all that it is bound to cause hardship, the dairy deal is monstrously expensive since it commits the EEC to producing over 10 million tonnes more milk than it can consume or easily dispose of every year.



Murder charges: Paul Castellano, aged 68, alleged head of a New York crime family, is escorted by an FBI agent after being indicted in New York with 20 other people of crimes including 25 murders.

New financial storm looms for Marcinkus

From John Earle Rome
Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, controversial American chairman of the Vatican Bank, the Istituto Per Le Opere di Religione (IOR), is at the centre of a new financial storm, this time involving the bank's links with an elderly Catholic financier, Signor Carlo Pesenti.

The Archbishop and two senior lay managers of the IOR

are reported by legal sources in Milan to have been sent formal notification by a magistrate there that they are under investigation into the circumstances of a 50bn lire loan (then worth \$85m) made by the IOR in 1972 to Signor Pesenti's holding company Ialmoliare.

The magistrate is inquiring into the possibilities of misappropriation.

Church lays down law to Warsaw

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

A strong, challenging message read from every one of Poland's pulpits yesterday marked the latest blow in the country's "war of the crosses".

Churches packed with young people heard their priests read an episcopal letter, declaring: "We want the crosses in places where the young generation is being educated - the children of a nation which is Christian in its overwhelming majority."

The conflict between the Catholic Church and the Communist authorities over the placing of crucifixes in schools, factories and hospitals has reached a national, rather than purely local, plane.

The authorities say that crucifixes in state institutions flout the fundamental separation of Church and State and that some priests are trying to extend clerical influence where it does not belong. The church maintains that the cross is an important national, as well as religious, symbol and should not be banished to the churches.

"So we have to see to it that the cross, as the most important token of our faith and Christian morality, be in our homes and be venerated in our hearts. Let us repeat the words of Cardinal Wojtyla, the present Pope John Paul II: 'In our Polish life we have, by all means available, to put the cross back in its proper place.'"

That, concludes the letter, is how Poles have always felt and feel now, including "Catholic parents who wish to bring up their children in the Christian spirit to which they have the right guaranteed by Polish law and by all the international agreements ratified by Poland."

For the church, the war of the crosses has a two-fold significance. First, it unifies the primates, the country's bishops, priests and parishioners at a time when not all Catholics are convinced that the church's policy of measured conciliation with the Government is being correctly pursued.

Every Catholic agrees that the crucifixes should not be ripped down from schools. Secondly, it stakes the church claim to be co-responsible for the upbringing of children in communist Poland.

● Price surprise: Poles were hit yesterday with a price increase which raised the cost of petrol by 25 per cent overnight (AP reports). Taxi fares were also affected.

Greeks tell Weinberger of Aegean threat

Athens - Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, made it clear to Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, who was here for talks at the weekend, that security cooperation can become normal again only if the Americans take seriously Greek misgivings about Turkish military strength in the Aegean (Mario Modiano writes).

Mr Papandreu, after seven hours of discussions, said: "Our relations with Washington inevitably pass through Ankara."

The US Defence Secretary, who flew yesterday to Izmir in Turkey for a meeting of the Nato nuclear planning group, seemed impressed by the force of Greek feelings about the alleged threat from the Turks.

Murder claim

Nardo, Italy (AP) - A telephone caller to a newspaper, claiming to speak for the Red Brigades, said the group was responsible for the murder yesterday of Signora Renata Fonte, aged 34, education commissioner of this southern town. She was shot dead outside her home.

Soviet palace

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union plans to complete construction of the Tsaritsyn palace in the suburbs of Moscow, started by Catherine the Great 201 years ago and abandoned because she did not like it. *Moskovskaya Pravda* said. It is to be turned into a museum.

'Sadist' squad

Moscow (Reuters) - Britain has developed brainwashing of its military forces to a fine art with political lectures and selected films, and its Army is made up of right-wing 'obedient sadists and murderers', the Soviet Military Review said.

Author dies



Luigi Barzini, the Italian writer widely known as a leading interpreter of his country for foreign readers, who died in Rome on Saturday, at the age of 75. He wrote in English as well as Italian and won special attention for his 1964 book *The Italians*, in which he made affectionate criticisms of his homeland.

Killer executed

Huntsville, Texas (Reuters) - Ronald O'Bryan, 39, who murdered his eight-year-old son with poisonous candy for \$32,000 (£22,800) insurance money, was executed by lethal injection on Saturday despite three last-minute appeals.

Quality first

Peking (Reuters) - From 1970 to 1982 the rate of growth in China's population dropped from 2.88 per cent a year to 1.47 per cent, and future efforts will concentrate on raising cultural and educational levels, two population experts said in a paper presented at an international conference on China's census.

Owen team offer urgent tasks for economic summit

By Sarah Hogg

An agenda of six urgent tasks for the London economic summit of heads of government has been outlined by Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Dr Saburo Okita.

Dr Owen, Professor Brzezinski a senior member of President Carter's Administration and Dr Okita (a former Japanese Foreign Minister and president of the International University of Japan) will today present a special report to the Trilateral Commission in Washington, urging a series of strategic actions on the seven world leaders meeting in London in June.

The Trilateral Commission is a private foundation set up by Mr David Rockefeller in 1973, bringing together influential figures from North America, Europe and Japan - the areas from which the seven heads of government who make up the membership of the annual economic summits are also drawn.

Under the motto "democracy must work", Dr Owen and his co-authors propose a package deal of trade-offs between the main Western powers, to be negotiated in time for the London summit, followed by a "wider agenda" for subsequent meetings of the Nato partners, the subscribers to the International Development Association, leading up to a strategic Western summit meeting.

The tasks put forward in their package deal for the London

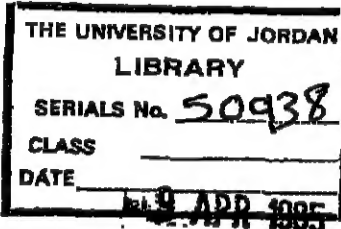
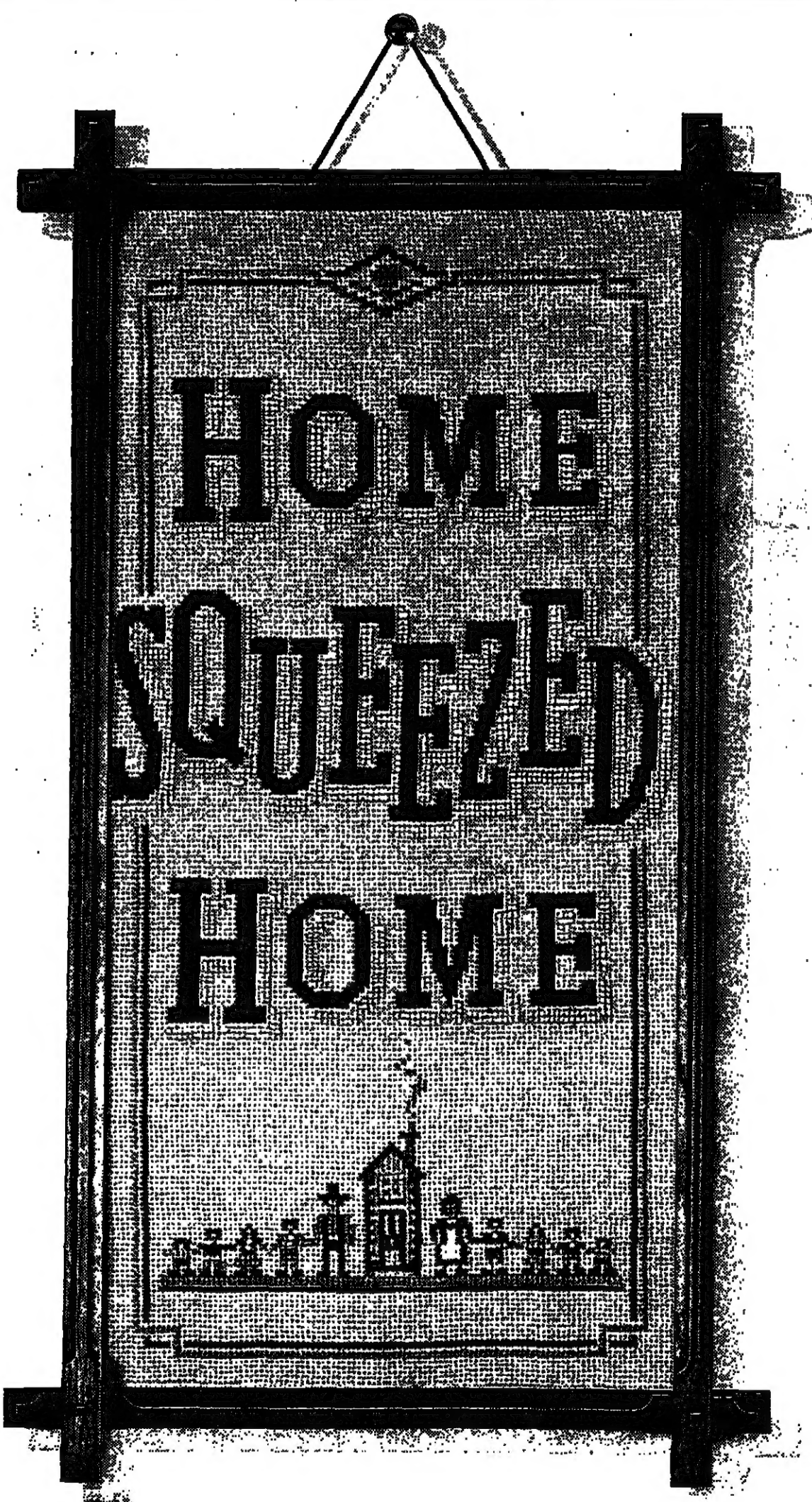


Mr Brzezinski (left) and Dr Owen: Agenda co-authors.

summit include: urgent action by the United States to reduce its budget deficit; radical action by Europe to deal with its technological backwardness and high levels of structural unemployment; and acceptance by Japan of a world role commensurate with its economic power, involving the expansion of domestic demand for other people's goods, overseas investment and a bigger defence budget.

These three proposals, directed at the separate regional points of the "trilateral" triangle, are followed by three more general propositions.

These are for greater coordination of economic policies, in particular designed to stabilize exchange rates; fairer shares in the defence of the West (meaning more from Europe as well as Japan); and methods for coping with the debt crisis, in particular through a supply of resources to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.



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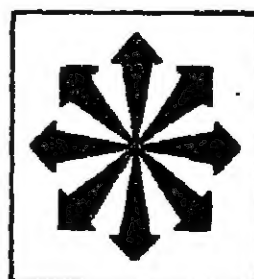
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threat

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Accused

First

Urgent

Sikhs in Punjab call off protests in return for government concession

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Government of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Sikh agitators in the Punjab took a step back away from confrontational chaos at the weekend.

The Government announced that it was prepared to amend Article 25 of the constitution — one of the principal sources of Sikh complaint — and, in return, the leader of the Akali Dal, the Sikh political party, called off the week-long agitation planned to begin today.

The way is now open for further substantive negotiations between Sikhs and the Government on the other items of the agitators' list of claims.

Sikhs have objected to Article 25 of the constitution ever since it was introduced in 1949 because, to their eyes, it appears to lump them together with Hindus, and to neglect their religious individuality.

It is difficult to explain to a Sikh that it does no such thing: that Article 25, in fact, protects the right of the Government to legislate on the organization of temples — another Sikh demand — and also defends the rights of Sikhs to carry the *Kirpan*, the knife or dagger prescribed by their religion.

Demonstrations against Ar-

ticle 25 have taken the form of public burning of copies of the constitution, an offence against the Indian criminal code. This week the agitators intended to fill Punjab jails with 50,000 demonstrators who would court arrest by making mass bonfires of the constitution.

However, Mr P. C. Sethi, the Indian Home Minister, announced that the Government was prepared to consult the Sikh religious leadership and other representatives as well as legal experts, and to introduce amendments necessary to remove Sikh doubts about the Article.

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, president of the Akali Dal, immediately announced that he was calling off the week-long demonstration. "It is a grand victory of the Akalis", he said.

Secret contact between the Akalis and the Government had paved the way for the agreement and it is reported by some sources that President Giani Zail Singh, a Sikh himself and a former Chief Minister of Punjab, has been in touch with the Akalis through undisclosed connections.

It is clear that government concern over badly deteriora-

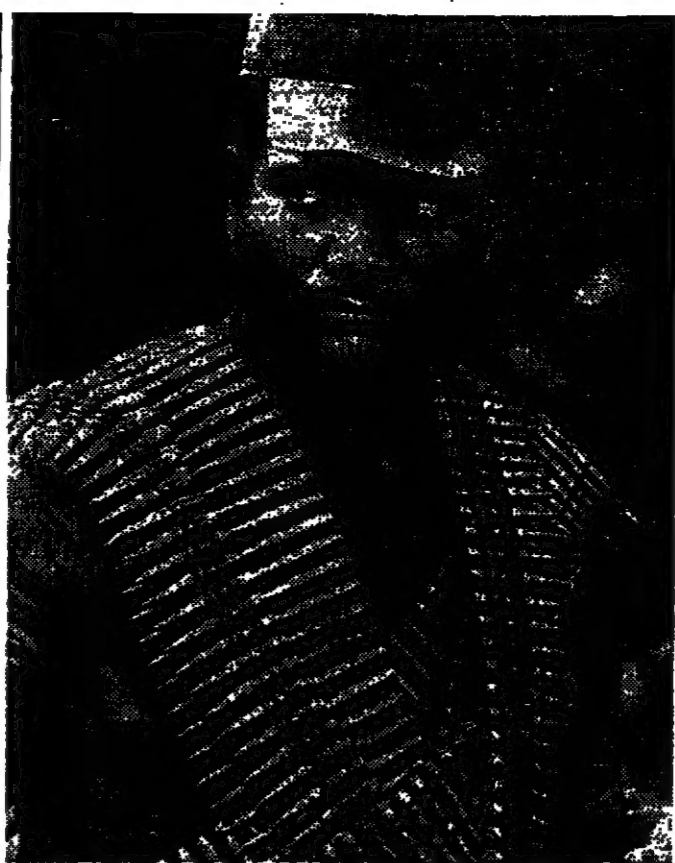
ting law and order in Punjab led to the détente. Although additional units of the Central Reserve police force had been drafted into the state, and 12 additional temporary prisons designated, it was feared that extremists would take advantage of the confusion to cause further mayhem.

This was also reportedly a fear of Sant Longowal, who felt the extremists would engineer violence. He was said to have been relieved at the agreement which would save hundreds of lives.

Action to defuse the Punjab crisis has become more and more urgent, with violence and murder associated with the agitation reaching new heights recently.

In Punjab and in its Hindu-dominated neighbour, Haryana, tension between the two communities resulted in riots and killings. The two communities have grown steadily apart and the Punjab economy has been badly hit.

Grenade attacks: At least three women were killed and 23 people injured yesterday when two men threw grenades into a Sikh religious centre 20 miles from Amritsar (Reuters).



Dressed to kill: A soldier patrolling near Jucapa, El Salvador. The area commander has abandoned American-taught tactics in the fight against guerrillas.

Salvador gunmen kill right-wing journalist

San Salvador (Reuters) — Gunmen shot dead a conservative Salvadoran columnist and former member of the Government's Central Election Council, officials said.

The killing of Rafael Hasbun, aged 55, was carried out on Friday night, three days after a right-wing death squad threatened to kill election council officials for the disorganization which marked last week's presidential elections.

Officials said Señor Hasbun, columnist for the right-wing *Diario de Hoy*, was ambushed and shot seven times as he entered his office. Eyewitnesses said three gunmen were involved, and responsibility was later claimed by a telephone caller for the left-wing Revolutionary Workers Party.

The shooting rekindled fears of increased violence in advance of run-off presidential elections between the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) and the Christian Democrats, scheduled for May 6.

Hard-eyed scrutiny of new leader

From Richard Owen, Moscow

In the first of two articles assessing Mr. Konstantin Chernenko's leadership at the Kremlin, Richard Owen, Moscow Correspondent, examines his impact on domestic affairs.

CHERNENKO IN CHARGE



Part 1

"It looks as if we'll soon be dealing with President Chernenko," a Western diplomat remarked recently. He was referring to the growing assumption that after the precedents set by Brezhnev and Andropov, the jobs of Party leader and Head of State go hand in hand.

The decision will be made on April 11 by the Supreme Soviet, and there are still reports that the presidency may go to another member of the collective leadership such as Mr. Gromyko or Marshal Ustinov.

But the real test of Mr. Chernenko's authority will come on the eve of the Supreme Soviet, when the 300-man central committee convenes in plenary session.

Some of the new members are products of the brief but remarkable Andropov era. Some of them find it difficult to adjust to a man who stood in Brezhnev's shadow for decades running his office, who only entered the Politburo in 1978 and has no experience of industry, agriculture or diplomacy.

There will be some hard-eyed assessments of the General Secretary as well as praise and applause.

In the two months or so since the Politburo made its cautious choice, confirming him as the Kremlin's senior leader, Mr. Chernenko has done nothing to improve his standing.

He has brought his family to the forefront in a way Mr. Andropov never did, and Tass has released photographs of Chernenko the proud grandfather, standing shirtless with his grandson in arms and his wife and daughter on either side.

Anna Dmitrievna, his wife, appeared to vote during the Supreme Soviet elections and at the International Women's Day Ball on March 8, when she demonstratively brought along Mr. Brezhnev.

The patriarchal image goes down well with Russians. But they were embarrassed to find that Mr. Chernenko's poor performance during the Andropov funeral was not an aberration.

When he spoke on election eve in the Kremlin on March 2, his only major appearance since being made leader, television viewers from Vyborg to Vladivostok saw him lose his place for a long 30 seconds before resuming in the wrong place.

missing out a passage on Soviet-American relations.

For many it was reminiscent of Mr. Brezhnev's performance when he visited Azerbaijan shortly before his death.

Although 72 and in poor health — he is often short of breath and occasionally needs a supporting hand under the elbow when walking — it is not Mr. Chernenko's mortality which worries the Russians. It is the image he presents to the outside world.

A phrase often heard in Moscow is *On nie tot*, literally "He is not the one", although "He is not up to it" conveys the meaning.

The comparison is with Mr. Andropov, who was feared and respected.

The Andropovites favour Mr. Mikhail Gorbachov, 52, who is regarded as the Kremlin number two.

Mr. Chernenko recently attacked excessive paperwork and parochialism and called for urgent economic solutions. But the forthcoming plenum should reveal what he means when he says — as he did in his acceptance speech and again on March 6 — that party officials should control economic managers but not do their job, a line which some see as aimed at the Andropov practice of putting technocrats into senior policy jobs.

By contrast, Mr. Gorbachov called in his Supreme Soviet election speech for the appointment of managers and officials "capable of thinking and acting in a modern way", and praised Mr. Andropov's economic experiments in industry and agriculture, which involve a measure of management autonomy and wages incentives for teams of workers.

To some extent Mr. Chernenko has inherited a structure which Mr. Andropov managed to change even in his brief period at the top.

Tomorrow: East-West links

Village shows its anger at SS men's reunion

Oberaula, West Germany. (Reuters) — Former members of Hitler's SS "Death Head" tank division ended an annual reunion yesterday which drew strong anti-Nazi protests and bruised the reputation of this quiet resort, but caused no violence.

Oberaula's 1,900 inhabitants were outnumbered by more than two to one by outsiders at the weekend as about 350 former members of the elite division went ahead with their reunion despite some 3,000 protesters marching through the village.

Police sent 350 men with riot gear and water cannon to Oberaula, 45 miles northeast of Frankfurt, after unionists, left-wing organizations and Jewish groups called for a demonstration against the SS meeting and created concern over the prospect of violent confrontations.

The SS veterans had met twice before in Oberaula without drawing attention. But their



Herr Kurt Meyer, one of the SS veterans

gathering as a senior citizens' holiday club was uncovered a month ago, provoking the first demonstration in Oberaula's 1,000-year history and a vow from the mayor that they would not be allowed to return.

Old men in the striped uniforms of the death camp, filmed by television from half a dozen countries, were among protesters.

Stoph niece describes her escape

From Michael Binyon

Bonn

The niece of Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, planned to defect from East Germany during a stopover in Canada on the way to Cuba in 1982, but gave up the idea when she and her husband were not allowed to take their two children with them, she told a Sunday newspaper here.

Continuing her memoirs in the mass circulation *Bild am Sonntag*, Frau Ingrid Berg said her next plan was to seek asylum in the West German mission in East Berlin.

She and her husband, Hans-Dieter, drove past the mission on February 23, but saw a massive East German police presence outside. So that evening they decided to try to escape via Prague, and drove to the West German Embassy there the next day with their children.

Harlem roars for Jackson

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson took his presidential campaign to Harlem yesterday and the inhabitants of this black section of New York City took him to their hearts.

Traffic came to a halt as tens of thousands of well-wishers cheered and mobbed the black presidential candidate as he led a parade through the district's mean and broken streets.

The crowds were the largest of the New York primary campaign. At one stage the parade stretched across 10 city blocks, with groups of whites, Asians and Hispanics helping to lead the throng into a genuine "rainbow coalition".

"Hands that once picked cotton, on Tuesday will pick a president," Mr Jackson told the crowd at a campaign stop in East Harlem. "The waking of a sleeping giant has been a long time coming, but our time has come." The crowd roared its approval.

The parade took place in a part of New York that tourists (and even white Americans) do not usually see. It is an area where Fifth Avenue deteriorates into a morass of burnt-out houses and mean-looking municipal apartment blocks.

Much of Mr Jackson's message was directed at those who



live at the depressed and deprived end of the rainbow. He emphasized the need to spend more on housing, health and education. "It's cheaper to feed the child than jail the man," he said.

The crowd loved it and chanted in response: "April third, April third, Jesse Jackson will be heard."

Voting in the New York primary, which will elect 285 delegates to the Democratic Party's national convention, takes place tomorrow.

Mr Jackson's aim tomorrow is to capture more than 20 per cent of the votes cast in the primary. If he succeeds this would entitle him to a share of the 80 delegates apportioned on the basis of the presidential preference tally and to any he wins in individual congressional districts.

He won 21 per cent of the vote in Illinois two weeks ago and hopes to better that in New York. On paper this should be

possible as blacks accounted for 23 per cent of turnout in the 1980 primary and there has been a big increase in black voter registration since.

But some prominent black leaders, among them Representative Charles Rangel, have endorsed Mr Walter Mondale, whose supporters claim he can expect to win up to 25 per cent of the black vote. So Mr Jackson has been trying to expand his appeal among Hispanics, Asians and poor whites.

Before he went to Harlem, Mr Jackson had visited a lesbian and gay community centre, and toured Greenwich Village, Chinatown and Little Italy.

However, the bulk of his support must come from New York blacks which is why he has spent most of his time campaigning in black areas.

He has certainly managed to capture the imagination and the hearts of New York blacks. "I think he's a cutie pie," remarked a black woman standing on tip-toe trying to catch a glimpse of the candidate. "Yeah, he's a good-looking nigger," joked her husband.

But will they go and vote for him tomorrow?

Razzmatazz, page 12

The best television programmes of the week appear in Radio Times, Britain's No.1 magazine

In the 1983 Television Awards recently presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the BBC won no less than 19 awards



The British Academy Award is based on a design by Mitzi Cunliffe

BEST SINGLE DRAMA
An Englishman Abroad
John Schlesinger

BEST FACTUAL SERIES
Forty Minutes
Roger Mills

BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME
Carrott's Lib
Geoff Posner

BEST COMEDY SERIES
Hi-De-Hi!
John Kilby

BEST PROGRAMME/SERIES WITHOUT CATEGORY
Arena
Alan Yentob

BEST WRITER
Alan Bennett
An Englishman Abroad

RICHARD DIMBLEBY AWARD
John Tusa
Newsnight

BEST ACTOR
Alan Bates
An Englishman Abroad

BEST ACTRESS
Coral Browne
An Englishman Abroad

BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCE
Tracey Ullman
Three of a Kind

BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
DOCUMENTARY/EDUCATIONAL
Christopher Pilkington
Take Hart

VIDEO LIGHTING
Bill Miller
The Hot Shoe Show

FILM CAMERAMAN
Nat Crosby
An Englishman Abroad
Farmers Arms

COSTUME DESIGN
Amy Roberts
An Englishman Abroad
The Tale of Beatrix Potter

FILM SOUND
Richard Manton
Ron Edmonds
Philip Kloss
An Englishman Abroad

SOUND SUPERVISOR
Michael McCarthy
Three of a Kind/The Two Ronnies
Grace Kennedy

VIDEO CAMERAMAN
Rodney Taylor
The Citadel/Stan's Last Game
The Tale of Beatrix Potter
Shall I Be Mother?

VTR EDITOR
Dennis Collett
Reith/The Last Day
The Hot Shoe Show

DESIGN
Stuart Walker
An Englishman Abroad



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THE ARTS

PUBLISHING

A sort of privilege

W.H. Smith & Son (Holdings) plc are doing well. They have recently just given their twenty-sixth annual literary award, of £4,000, to the poet Philip Larkin for a paperback collection of reviews and journalism. They have also just announced substantially increased profits: "Sales of personal computers and books were particularly strong," writes their chairman, Simon Hornby, who properly takes pride in being a bookman.

Mr Hornby points out also that "new member recruitment for the Book Club business was good and results improved significantly." A reader - let us call him D. Defoe - has sent me a letter he has received from John Richards, Privileged Members' Division at W.H. Smith & Son's Book of the Month Club operation at Swindon. The computer typewritten letter is described as "a special invitation" and invites D. Defoe to acquire "hardcover books from as little as 20 pence each!" It continues: "That's right! Beautiful hardcover books published at £17...£18...or even £19 each! But you can choose yours from as little as 25 pence each! Why the sudden extra 5p is not explained, but maybe the exclamation marks compensate."

Mr Richards goes on to confide: "This is your opportunity to join the 'Privileged Members' Division' of Book of the Month Club on extremely generous terms. It's really a club within a club, with a MUCH better offer than anything appearing in our magazine or press advertisements." And so, ludicrously, it continues. Provided you reply within 14 days: "You'll receive a Parker T-Ball pen - FREE! And during your first year's membership you would save £57.75 if you bought eight specified books at the Club's total offer price (£24.95) as opposed to the publishers' prices (£92.70)."

"All we cut," says the Club's "handout," "are the prices!" - and then asks "How is it done?" The answer is somewhat disingenuous. "It's what you might call a matter of demand and supply. One of our members describes it as...a very satisfying form of Reader Power."

As I have commented in the past, whoever grows rich on book club sales it is not the author, or the publisher, or booksellers. Nor, at 25 pence a throw, can it be Mr Richards. Certainly the blandness of the vast majority of books offered to new members by the Club gives the lie to the belief that a book is a book is a book.

Penguin have launched their ambitious, elegantly designed and inexpensive series of Passnotes with a first list of 16 titles. Although the back cover copy reads "Everything you need to succeed in examinations" this, patently, is not the case. The "set-text" titles run from 96 to 112 pages (novels include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Great Expectations*, the plays are all by the Bard) and subject guides from 128 to 240 pages (including English language, Chemistry, Mathematics).

The first sentence of Jill Talbot's introduction to Dickens's novel states that "The Penguin copy of *Great Expectations* begins with a brief factual account of Charles Dickens's life and works"; and further down the same page reference is made to "Magwitch's escape (see Angus Wilson's *The World of Charles Dickens*)" published by...you've got the picture. In fact all the "set-text" Passnotes tie in with the Penguin editions, and why shouldn't they?

Although the series is aimed at the O-level and CSE market the books are on sale in general bookshops and at net rather than non-net (educational) prices. Penguin's academic marketing manager, Andrew Welham, declines to reveal how many copies have been printed but comments: "Suffice to say that we will be spending nearly £40,000 on launch and expect very high sales indeed."

All titles are written (I prefer to say compiled) by sometime practising teachers, and the six I have read are extremely sensible. In *Wuthering Heights* there is even a family tree of the characters.

The only author registered for Public Lending Right in the first year who did not come out with as much as other grateful authors thought she should have done was Brigid Brophy. Almost every author, give or take a poet and non-fiction writer or two, did better than he or she anticipated. This is unlikely to be the case next year as so many authors, including MPs, who thought the business of form-filling and coping with the statutory declaration (free in front of a JP, £2 with a solicitor, notary public or commissioner of oaths) was not worth the effort, now realize they lost out. Many more than the 6,086 authors who received PLR cheques the other day are expected to register for the second year's sample by June 30.

E. J. Craddock

Simon Rattle (right) tomorrow begins an imaginative series of concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Nicholas Kenyon discovers how it happened

The heart of the Viennese tradition

Simon Rattle is not yet 30 (he makes it in January next year), but over the last decade he has been the most conspicuously successful of all British conductors. Or perhaps not so conspicuously, for his success has been built as much on refusing work as on accepting it, on waiting for the right conditions and the right time.

He has turned down conducting at the Met, because of the rehearsals or lack of them; he has turned down conducting the New York Philharmonic, because the orchestra has such a reputation for being difficult; and he told me he has turned down being music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in succession to Giulini, "because I'm committed to what I'm doing in this country, and I would not like my son to be brought up in California."

Rattle is already fortunate enough to be able to choose exactly what he wants to do. He is happy as conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and now does less elsewhere. "I'm only interested in conducting when I can choose the programmes; there's no longer any pleasure in trying to do things I don't like or am not ready for. So I plan further and further ahead: that's frightening. I know now that two or three years ahead I'll spend a season just doing basically Beethoven symphonies. It takes a terribly long time to learn something properly, and I now want to add works quite slowly to my repertoire."

Which is why the major series with the Philharmonia Orchestra - Mahler, Strauss and his influence - which begins tomorrow at the Festival Hall - is so welcome to him.

It represents an unusually concentrated period of work in London for him, and a chance to explore a coherent theme in a series of programmes of his own devising. One might have thought such a series would have been years in the making, but Rattle's explanation was typically candid and straightforward.

"The Philharmonia had a tour of Spain, and it fell through. So one day when I was rehearsing, Chris Bishop, their manager, came up to me and said: 'We've got this time. Why don't we do a series of concerts, perhaps with one or two at the Elizabeth Hall, around a theme - you think about it.' So in my bath that afternoon I dreamed up this collection of Mahler and Strauss and the Second Viennese School with all my favourite works in it, and I thought they would soon shoot it down. It was a marvellous opportunity, which you don't often get in London, to put concerts together which really make sense."

"In fact, Chris was keen, and the orchestra were very encouraging too, and players like John Wallace said 'we really must do this'. Because the Philharmonia has, I think, hardly ever played this Second Viennese School material, I thought it would be fascinating to put it in the context of Mahler and Strauss, partly to show that it isn't just academic and dissonant - all the things that has put off the public - but grows out of that romantic tradition."

Wasn't the public notion of Schoenberg and Webern as inexpressive largely conditioned by bad performances? "Oh I think so, because before Boulez came along, and showed how this music could

sound transparent and beautiful, people had little idea of what it was about. Now I feel we've also got a chance to show how it can be done - Karajan's Webern performances are just ravishing, you know. If you read what Webern said you learn how he played the piano using masses of rubato, and the rhythm could hardly be made out."

Did they all admire each other? "Well, Mahler didn't admire Strauss. But Schoenberg, Berg and Webern regarded Mahler with fantastic respect. Berg even said of Mahler's Sixth that it was the only Sixth symphony, and he was including the 'Pastoral'. Mahler came to the first performance of the Schoenberg Chamber Symphony, and he turned around and castigated the people who were booing. Apparently he said afterwards that he couldn't claim to understand everything. Schoenberg was doing, but he knew it was great."

Where did that leave Strauss? "Wasn't he the unadventurous one here? 'Well, we couldn't do *Salome* or *Elektra*, obviously. And I deliberately chose his very neo-classical pieces, a bit of *Ariadne* and *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, because they're gorgeous pieces and make such a strong contrast. I really cannot understand the anti-Strauss feeling that's around these days. He was a great composer, but a completely different figure from Mahler."

And why the Prelude from Wagner's *Tristan* to open the series? "It's what started it all. It's the one key to all this music, and when you hear those first harmonies you realize that this is in every way the seminal piece for the composers that fol-

lowed. And, if there's such a thing as a running gag in the music of the Second Viennese School, it is finding the *Tristan* chord - it's all over the place. *Till Eulenspiegel* is a joke about the *Tristan* chord."

"The one thing I have changed from my original conception of the series is that originally we were to finish with Mahler's Tenth in a completion that's different from Deryck Cooke's, by the American Clinton Carpenter. He's in his mid-seventies, and it's a quite different approach from Cooke's, with bits of other Mahler symphonies thrown in. If you watch the BBC2 programmes I've done in a couple of months, you'll hear a bit of that realization. But, when I tried it, it sounded completely different from the way it looked on the page - I just couldn't do it with conviction. It was very strange. So we'll do *Das Lied* instead, and the first chance here to hear Florrie Quivar sing isn't something to sniff at."

Though this Philharmonia series is obviously important to him, Rattle's first commitment is still to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, whose conductor he has been for five years now. "My future is in Birmingham. Absolutely; no reservations at all. There just aren't the conditions in London for good orchestral work, although I don't see why they shouldn't be made. There was a time when the Hall was this country's best orchestra, and I don't see any reason why the CBSO shouldn't grow to be the same, if we can get the pay and the conditions right for the players. I've been amazed at how far we've got in this short time."



Sophia Baker

Television

Changing literary shapes

In New York today's avant garde is tomorrow's old hat. Frenzy, fear and the fast buck fuel the fashions and Melvyn Bragg was quite right to reflect on the ephemeral nature of acclaim there when he introduced Kathy Acker on LWT's *The South Bank Show* last night.

She has apparently had a best seller, *Blood and Guts in High School*, and has written a film, *Variety*, which Channel 4 is to bring to our attention. It is a fair guess that she has not swum into your ken yet and Mr Bragg obviously felt that, minnow now, she is going to be quite something later.

He kindly warned those with reservations about sexual explicitness in his preamble (it is surprising how frequent such warnings are becoming) and drew her out about her life and approach to literature. The first has been hectic. She lives in the Lower East Side. The area is grimy poor, mainly Puerto Rican and dangerous. Ms

Acker's apartment, she said, had seen 13 murders.

Once she left, "after several personal disasters", but returned with some resolutions, one of which was to find "some kind of stability that didn't pressure anybody". Her movement is centred among painters and found its voice with the import of punk from Britain, particularly in the persons of the Sex Pistols.

This manifestation of vocalized despair gave them the impetus to make art of their lives and Ms Acker, a middle-class Jewish girl with an unhappy childhood, seeks hers in writing, embracing what she described as a theory of "plagiarism, a kind of literary collage, juxtaposing this and that."

She thinks nothing of American novelists such as Mailer, Roth or Malamud. She feels they are trying to impose some sort of culture, and she does not want that. Nor does she want to

tell a story. It is only at the last draft - she goes to five or six - that she thinks about her readers.

She aims to break down meaning. After a disillusioning career in sex films and the sex industry, only recently, she said, had she ceased to confuse sex with love. Her hope is that she will learn something in her search.

She is anxious to enlarge her range of possibilities, even to change her shape. She lifts weights, which is very, in the latter end. "There's no way you can do this," she said, curling away, "and not change your life."

In BBC's *One Pair of Eyes* Laurie Taylor tried to be jolly about his preference for town, specifically Battersea, over country. The joke would not stretch to half an hour, and made one want to get away from it all.

Dennis Hackett

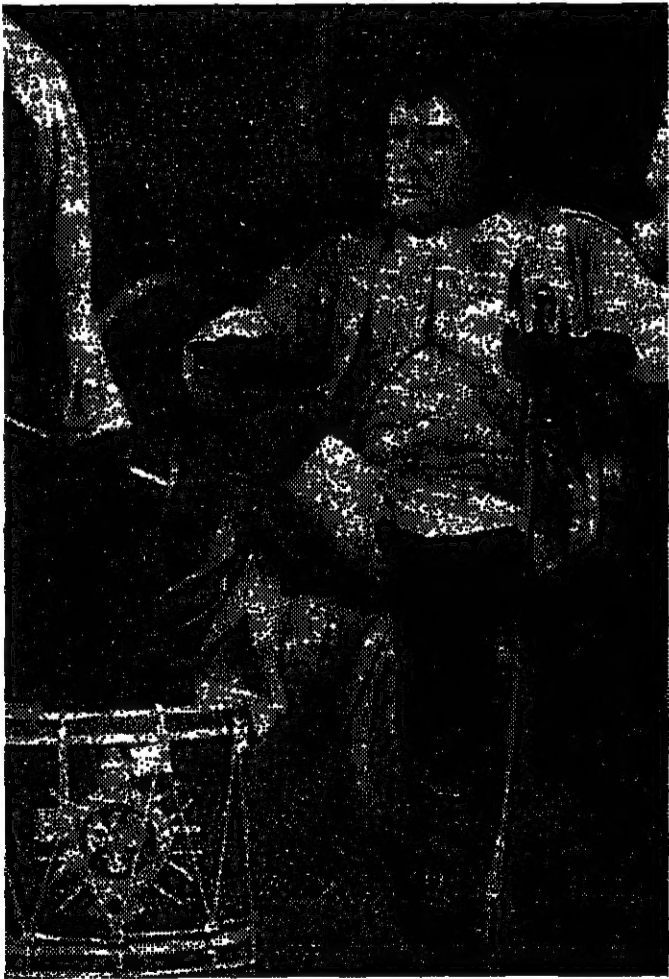
Opera
Blend of truth
War and Peace
Coliseum

There are few things more tedious than somebody else's nationalism, and yet every time the English National Opera perform Prokofiev's epic *War and Peace* they somehow contrive to convert the Coliseum audience into a crowd of Cossacks, ready to cheer Kutuzov to the echo, and to feel a mixture of numbed loathing and satisfaction at the troubles of that heartless devil Napoleon. The opera is made for such crude responses. One feels indeed that everybody ought to rise up and shout the final patriotic hymn along with the chorus (it has certainly been heard often enough by that stage), but even without such evidence of involvement it was clear on Saturday night that the production has been revived in excellent condition for its visit to the United States in the summer.

The "Peace" half of the work is always more difficult to bring off, partly because Prokofiev uses here the techniques of the film composer. Often he creates an atmosphere with a wisp of melody and then merely sustains it through repetition, leaving himself little room to chase subtleties of feeling or character. If, nevertheless, there are some finely drawn portraits in this part - Eilene Hannan's delightfully fresh and prettily sung Natasha, Ann Howard's blowsy Helene or Kenneth Woolham's Pierre, exactly right in his anxiety to be good - they owe more to the singers than to the score.

And not even this cast, most of whom took the same roles when the opera was last revived 18 months ago, can find much to do with the linking orchestral passages that sound most like film music and demand the movement of a camera. Curiously, the outdoor second part is much less cinematic. If Prokofiev was influenced here by his work in another medium, then that medium was surely the oratorio, in its wide-brushed Stalinist manifestation.

The distinctly raucous chorus made a good noise, backed to the hilt by the orchestra under James Lockhart. But Mr Lock-



Malcolm Donnelly's Napoleon: "a picture of the dead soul"

hart found much more than cannon and mortar effects even in the "War" act, and he won from the orchestra the true togetherness that is essential if the sugar and vinegar blends of Prokofiev's scoring are to work. It was an orchestra that could turn in a moment from petal smoothness to steely strength, reminding one time and again that this is a score with all the virtuosity and variety of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Among the combatants in an enormous cast, Eric Shilling again pulls off the trick of changing from the bumbling Rostov of "Peace" into the sardonic Kutuzov of "War" without making one think Natasha's father is masquerading as the general. Malcolm Donnelly's Napoleon is a picture of the dead soul, and Russell Smythe, a new Andrey, was getting into an ungrateful part by the time he reached the intolerably sentimental and vulgar deathbed scene.

Paul Griffiths

George Benson
Wembley ArenaIan Dury
Hammersmith Odeon

Playing bebop with Johnny Griffin, weaving a blues solo around the voice of a great soul singer on Bobby Womack's new record, cutting his own pop hits in collaboration with such master craftsmen as Quincy Jones and Rod Temperton - all this variety must make George Benson's life one of the most enviable in popular music.

During his recent five-night season at Wembley his demeanour put me in mind of B.B. King, to whose eminence he will surely one day succeed. Benson has the same spirit, the same ability to give an audience what it wants without either underestimating or patronising its intelligence, and the same dignity.

In Darkest England
Drill Hall

By a truly dramatic conversion, the big dingy bar in this Chancery Street fringe theatre has turned into an inviting and versatile stage space, with banked seating on two sides and a streamlined new bar at the back. Christening it, and coinciding with the Marx and William Morris anniversaries, is a refreshing, imaginative entertainment about Victorian England by Doppelganger, a group which re-forms itself for every show round a nucleus of two gifted people.

David Baird spends the evening mostly ensconced in the music corner, drawing an extraordinary variety of sounds from a battery of instruments including his own throat. Lijana Ortolja blends with the 14-strong company, emerging as a dotting mother sucking an insatiable Mr Punch from successive breasts or a uni-formed Briton bringing the orientally-masked Mr Baird to acceptance of the Union Jack. Four weeks of workshop experiment produce a profusion of images that use the company as a meticulously choreographed team of creative individuals, compiling an animated Mayhew

Theatre

from a swiftly-assembled public hanging, a music hall or a cholera tableau. Some sequences are puzzling; a few, like the cries-of-London montage, cover familiar ground. But ideas and energy never flag, and the inventive use of space constantly amazes. And the lighting: lurking beneath us for a ratcheting night scene, flickering in private candles with which the company search each other's (and our) faces for Blake's "marks of weakness, marks of woe", blazing from a side exit for an ecstatic procession celebrating a giant Queen Victoria. The period's fertility of ideas,

its contrasts of enlightenment and barbarity, give them a rich field. Bedlam, with its dementedly drilling soldier and its self-imagined monarch, furnishes the Queen despatching a doomed hero to the Crimea. But equally there is the delight of a baroque pas de deux for city-building surveyors, or the girl illustrating a geographer's lecture with an uproariously graphic impersonation of an exotic sea-slut. This last, with other curious fruits of empire, is ingeniously included in a pageant that would surely have amused Victoria as much as all of us. Anthony Masters

Concert

Class of a master

Lutoslawski Festival
Royal Academy of Music

How better to increase the interest of music than students in contemporary music than to secure the services for a week of a great composer? That is what the Royal Academy of Music did, involving as many of their charges as possible in lectures and concerts. Not least among the reasons for the venture's success was the choice of composer, for Witold Lutoslawski's music is as immediately charming as the man, besides being a good deal more.

The music in the final concert spanned the two decades beginning with *Venetian Games* (1962), the work which, with its well-defined sections of aleatoric, if hardly anarchic, counterpoint reveals for the first time the avant-gardist in Lutoslawski. This performance, by the Manson Ensemble under Paul Patterson's direction, was alive and robust, the percussion's punctuations crisply signifying the work's progress while instrumental groups engaged in their almost primeval antiphony.

English National Opera is to present *War and Peace*, *Rigoletto*, *Gladiator*, *Patience* and *The Turn of the Screw* during its tour of the United States from May 24 to June 30. The tour, which involves more than 350 members of the company, begins in Houston, travels to Austin, San Antonio and New Orleans, and ends with a two-week season at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

From this to *Chain I*, written last year for the principals of the London Sinfonietta, is a long journey. The later work's title suggests tangled complexity, but for most of the piece two strands of simultaneous events simply overlap and interlock with each other, yet another example of Lutoslawski devising new forms for novel statements. Odaline de la Martinez conducted the Manson Ensemble here, and it was she who took charge of their excellent reading of the Preludes from *Preludes and Fugue* for 13 solo strings (1972). These studies in textures and idioms contain a satisfying tension between the ritual of the written note and the liberty of rhythmic freedom.

But this is absolute music. Not so *Paroles tissées* (1965), given by the RAM Sinfonia under Colin Metters. The insights of the tenor soloist, Anthony Rich, assisted these settings of Chabrun to do what they were intended to do, digging our fears from the subconscious so that we might confront them knowingly.

However, the climax of the week came with the composer's own performance with the RAM Symphony Orchestra of his masterful *Livre pour orchestre* (1968), another ingeniously hybrid structure that succeeds in making a mighty impressive something out of the nothing that innocently bridges its four movements. In turns brazen and poetic, but above all cogent, this was a reading that will stay in the memory of the young players - and audience - for a while yet.

Stephen Pettitt

Jazz/Rock

He sings pleasantly on such songs as "Give Me the Night" and "In Your Eyes", translating for the Stevie Wonder generation a tradition of cream-voiced ballad singing going back through Johnny Mathis to Nat Cole; but it is as a guitarist that he fulfils his destiny, supercharging the understated thumb-picking associated with Wes Montgomery into a more extrovert approach. Never, though, is the frenzy of the moment allowed to gain the upper hand over his innate decorum.

What I found particularly significant and impressive was the way every song was terminated neatly and concisely, the loose head arrangements of "This Masquerade" and "Nature Boy" as well as the more closed structures of "Love Times Love" and "Turn Your Love Around". Unlike most of his contemporaries, Benson is willing to leave a song before he has worn it out.

His use of a 40-piece string section enables another com-

parison with B. B. King. Jess flattered to both, this time in the matter of taking respectability just a little too far, and the poorly-amplified strings achieved nothing that a synthesizer could not have managed with more precision. The three-man horn section, however, clearly enjoyed the inventive riffs and punctuations they were called on to supply.

Similar musicianship could also be heard from another horn section on Friday at Ian Dury's return to London, with a backing band he calls the Music Students replacing his erstwhile Blockheads. The trumpeter Steve Sidwell and the saxophonist Jamie Talbot, both graduates of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, embellished Dury's hits and misses with great skill, Sidwell decorating "Percy the Poet" with a solo of such finely balanced phrase and timbre that Wynton Marsalis himself would have been proud to have coined it.

Richard Williams

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SPECTRUM

Once more, with feeling

At the pinnacle of her career in ballet, Lynn Seymour turned from success to be 'wholesome, healthy and poor.' Now she returns to the classical stage and talks to Alan Hamilton

Lynn Seymour, variously described as the Elizabeth Taylor or the Guy Burgess of British ballet, is returning to the classical stage. But briefly.

Taylor because of the somewhat kaleidoscopic nature of her private life, and Burgess because of her celebrated defection four years ago, when she announced with dramatic suddenness her resignation from the Royal Ballet, forsaking the career of a highly acclaimed prima ballerina for the uncharted demi-monde of rock music and experimental modern dance.

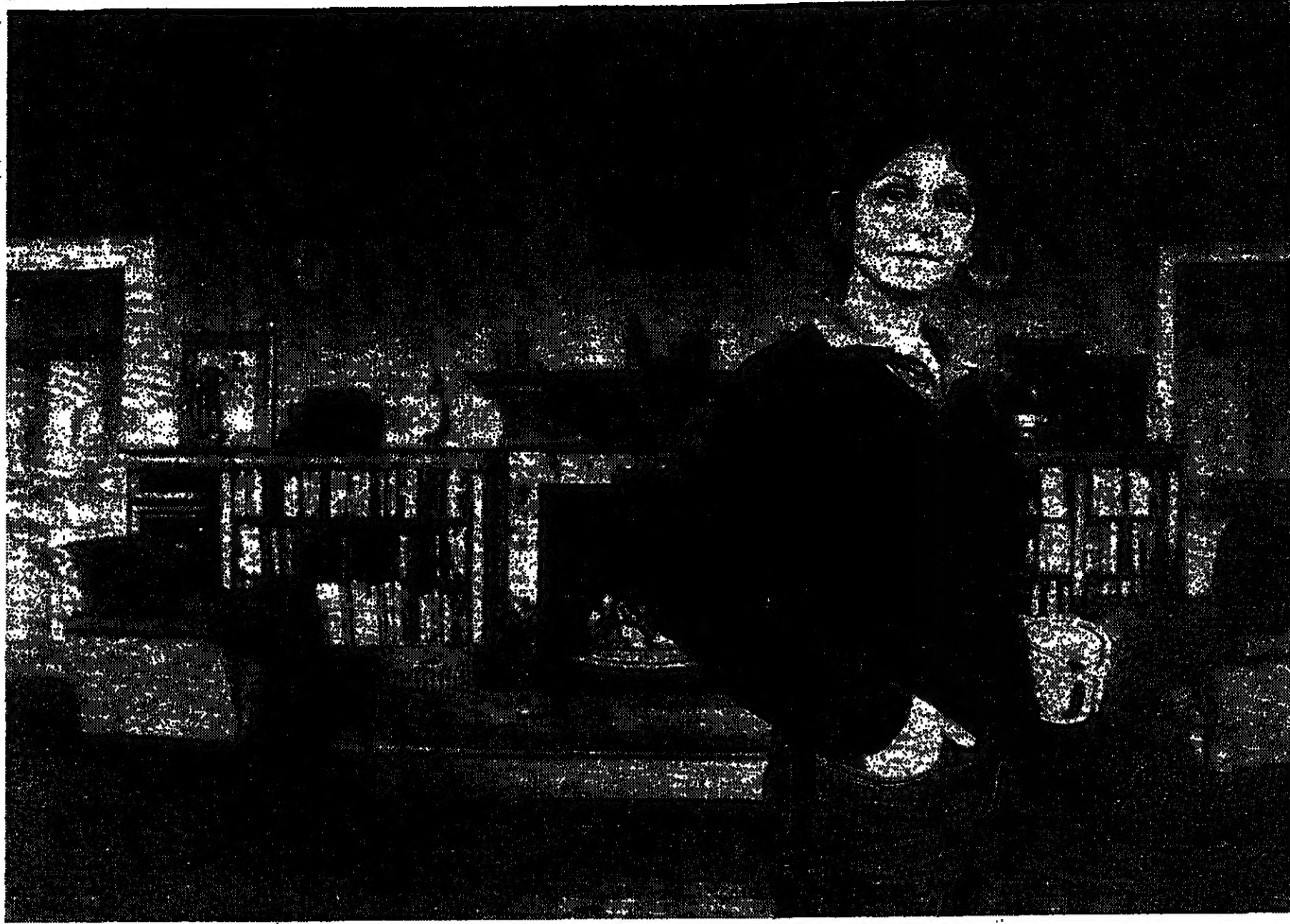
On May 13, before Mrs Ronald Reagan and other American high society paying up to 250 dollars a ticket, Lynn will take the stage of the New York Metropolitan Opera in a gala charity performance to mark the Met's centenary. Her chosen cameo is *Five Brahms Waltzes in the manner of Isadora Duncan*, a piece created for her by Sir Frederick Ashton when she was at the pinnacle of her conventional career.

It is very much a one-off performance, although she has been asked to repeat it in London and Vienna later in the year. When she turned her back on the adulation of the critics, the dressing rooms stacked high with bouquets and the admiration of her fellow professionals in 1980, the gesture was as good as final: since then, she calculates, she has appeared on a public stage only three times.

She agonized long before accepting the Met's invitation, but decided in the end it would be fun. But it also means an immense degree of hard work for a 45-year-old, to regain the necessary level of suppleness and sheer muscular strength. Already, for an hour and half every day, she gives herself a stern ballet class in the rambling Victorian manor house in Hampshire where she and her third husband moved last month, and where in an empty pine-paneled room an old sideboard serves as her barre.

Her defection from Covent Garden, shortly before she was scheduled to take a leading role in *A Month in the Country*, was greeted at the time with astonishment and dismay, and was widely branded as misguided. It was not, she says herself, as sudden as it appeared.

The Canadian dentist's daughter was elevated from the obscurity of Vancouver at the age of 14 when she won a



Lynn Seymour in her rambling Hampshire manor where an old sideboard serves as her barre

ballet scholarship to London, and from there she rose steadily to a position of pre-eminence in British ballet, known for her total commitment to a role as much as for her technical dancing skill. Her career reached a peak in 1976 with the award of a CBE, and her *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* were hailed as bringing wonderful freshness to well-worn roles.

Then her career was abruptly interrupted by a hysterectomy operation, on top of which were piled, in rapid succession, a mild mental breakdown and a strained Achilles tendon, just as she was struggling to get back into dancing shape. At about the same time it was brought home to her that she was approaching middle years, and that the number of roles for middle-aged prima ballerinas were, to say the least, scarce.

It was, however, a crisis of confidence which finally persuaded her to lay a plan of escape. "I just felt that I could not go through with *A Month in the Country*. After my illness, I wasn't ready. I was making myself ill worrying about it, so I decided that it would be better to be wholesome, and healthy, and poor. Actually I never enjoyed performing all that much. I always had a terrible fear of falling on my bum."

So instead of another performing of boring old enchantment in *A Month in*

The Country, she returned from illness with a decidedly offbeat cameo at a charity gala at the London Palladium in aid of one-parent families. Dressed as a slag of a one-parent mother, with kitchen steps and a washing-up rack for props, she gave a performance which drew thin applause and much perjorative use of the word "punk" by the critics.

That, and some avant-garde work with the Royal Ballet workshop, convinced her of the new direction in which she should go. She moved into the outer fringes of dance, performing soft-shoe shuffles with the skater Robin Cousins, and experimenting with ballet on roller skates three years before *Starlight Express*.

Although undoubtedly still a woman of great drive, her energies seem to have become dissipated, almost in too many different directions. She teaches a great deal, and has returned to the world of classical ballet on several occasions to choreograph more traditional pieces. But fame and success as an innovator of rock ballet have never quite gelled.

Now, in partnership with her husband, 12 years her junior and a

rock and jazz promoter, she is spreading her net even further. Her autobiography appears next month, and she plans to follow it with a book on what she calls "sensible exercise", for both dancer and lay stiffy.

"I am appalled by the aerobics boom, and all those exercise books encouraging you to work at it until it hurts. The only people who benefit are the orthopaedic surgeons. You should build up exercise gradually; when you are a ballet dancer, terrible fatigue is always with you, and you are working on automatic pilot all the time. You get so tired that you are not watching for the sudden awkward movement; that's when the accidents happen."

Although she has largely cut herself off from the world of professional dancing, although Ashton and Macmillan no longer scramble to create roles especially for her, and although her award of a CBE for services to her art in 1976 now seems an age ago, she says she misses none of it, and remains convinced that her decision to quit was the right one.

"I look back at some of my supposedly great performances on video, and I think to myself, my God, that wasn't so hot. I used to get so worried about maintaining a standard, and when I made the decision to resign

it was an immense relief. I never had fantastic physical strength, so without my commitment to a role which I relied on so much, I had nothing."

Shortly to bear fruit is another scheme, the launch of a Lynn Seymour range of dance clothes designed by herself and her husband. A longer-term plan, which would come to fruition if only wealthy backers could be found, is to make ballet films. "We want to do for ballet what Zeffirelli did for *La Traviata*; the best performances filmed by the best film directors."

Her return to the stage of the Met, if only for one performance, will be a considerable test of physical and mental stamina. If she enjoys it, she might do some more. The Burgess of ballet has found neither fame nor great fortune on the other side, but at least the dangers of falling on her bum have been more or less eliminated.

Tomorrow

The MacMillan revolution: the first extract from Lynn Seymour's autobiography

moreover... Miles Kington

The managing director of Topscale Recycling felt good. He had looked out of his bedroom window in the morning and admired his garden, kept in tip-top shape by his gardener at an annual wage of £6,000. He had enjoyed his breakfast, prepared by his wife (about £7,000 a year). He had read his newspaper, delivered by a small boy for about 70p a year. And now he was being driven to work by his chauffeur for a paltry £8,000 a year.

He felt good because of all these people who were working for him. It couldn't be the money that made them do it (and that was paid by the company anyway). It must be because they liked him. That made him feel good. Yes, I'm quite a guy, thought the managing director of Topscale Recycling.

A quarter of a mile from his factory gates he made the chauffeur stop the car and got his folding bike out of the boot. He liked to arrive at work on a bike, not just because it impressed the work-force and because he could claim the bike against tax, but because it made him, in some way he couldn't define, feel good.

One thing especially made him feel extra-good on this bright morning. Topscale Recycling had recently expanded its operations to the extent of needing an extra store manager, and they had advertised the post nationally. This meant that they were making jobs. They were actually reducing unemployment. He felt as if he himself were the light at the end of the tunnel that people were always talking about. And today was the day on which they were to start sifting applications for the new post.

"Good morning, sir," said the doorman whose job it was, apart from making difficulties for everyone entering the building, to park the managing director's bicycle when he arrived. The doorman personally thought it was silly to get a bike out of the boot 400 yards from the factory gates, but he wasn't paid £12,000 a year to keep such thoughts to himself. He was paid £6,000 to do it. But he kept such thoughts to himself anyway.

"Right," said the managing director, sweeping into his office and feeling extremely good. "How many applications have we had for that job?"

His assistant decided not to beat about the bush.

"Three million," he said.

"How many?" said the managing director. "Three million," said his assistant. This conversation was repeated several times until his boss realized he wasn't joking. He wasn't paid £9,000 a year to make jokes. They came extra.

"All I can assume, sir, is that every unemployed person in Britain has applied for this job," said the assistant. "Any idea why?" said the managing director.

"Yes, sir. The post carries a salary of £7,000 a year. There was a misprint in the advertisement and it comes out at £70,000 a year."

The managing director thought about this for a moment. He thought briefly of the hopes he had aroused in 3,000,000 breasts. He thought secondly of the trouble they would have going through 3,000,000 job applications. But most of all he thought of the wonderful amount of free waste paper that Topscale Recycling would get from 3,000,000 unanswered letters. They had just made a fortune, simply by advertising a job.

"Make up another new job," said the managing director, and advertise it at £80,000 a year. And make sure there is no misprint this time."

"Yes, sir," said the assistant.

The managing director felt very good indeed.

They were about to make another fortune. Nobody had ever thought of recycling job application letters before. It was the biggest new growth industry in Britain.

(This short story has been provided, free of charge, by Tony Central Office. Another one coming soon!)

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The role of the polls

The idea that opinion polls should be banned during general elections has been argued by the occasional academic lecturer or left-wing MP. Sometimes this proposal has been put forward with the rationale that because "opinion polls influence the way people vote", publication of opinion polls should be banned during general elections.

Gallup, on the eve of the poll and on polling day in June, found 41 per cent of voters who said their vote had been influenced by what the opinion polls said. A poll just published, especially commissioned by the BBC and IBA and conducted by Martin-Hamblin Research, found that 18 per cent of the public said television had "helped in deciding how to vote in the election" and the report suggests that when translated into electoral terms, television may have had an important role to play on a national level.

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Sex in the USSR

Just two-thirds (67 per cent) of American high school seniors say they worry about nuclear war, according to a survey conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and reported recently in the *Washington Post*. This is down slightly from the 71 per cent who were so concerned in 1982 but well above the 42 per cent who said they were worried about nuclear war in 1976 and the 47 per cent in 1977.

Brighton rock

The Market Research Society's 27th annual conference featured a score of papers and another score of company presentations and panels devoted to dissecting, digesting and introspecting the market research business.

The papers could be classified into external (eg "measuring the quality of customer service of Yorkshire Bank; "recruiting



Price watchers: many housewives do not bother

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION

Worrying Americans

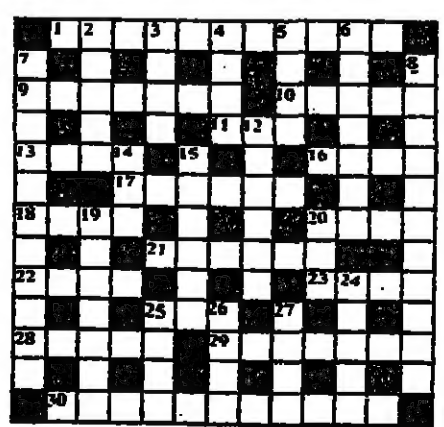
Findings on Public Opinion in October reported that the June congress of the communist party of the Soviet Union had authorised the setting up of an Institute of Public Opinion. Just recently a survey for the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported that just of one-third (36 per cent) of marriages in the Soviet Union are between couples who have known each other for less than six months and another 29 per cent between six months and one year. The poll found that the average age of the girl is 22 and of the man 25 and the paper reports that "many are sexually illiterate" (sic) and concludes that on the basis of that, sex education must be improved.

Robert Worcester

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ACROSS
1 Way of sorrows (3,8)
9 Political fugitive (7)
10 Inexpensive (5)
11 Regret (3)
12 Mountain ash (4)
16 Disturb (4)
17 Ill (6)
18 Cry of surprise (4)
20 Bow (4)
21 Maidenhair tree (6)
22 Rip (4)
23 Artistic work (4)
25 Tiny (3)
26 Printers' daggers (5)
28 Test (7)
30 Time between reigns (11)

DOWN
2 Deduce (5)
3 Pursues (4)
4 Suggestive look (4)
5 Speed contest (4)
6 Monarch's staff (7)
7 Weapons limitation (4,7)
8 Love potion (11)



12 Dissimilar (6)
14 Double deck coach (3)
15 For brief period (6)
19 Introduce gradually (5,2)
20 Disapproving shout (3)
24 Spicy rice (5)
25 Married woman (4)
26 Islamic chieftain (4)
27 Complacent (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

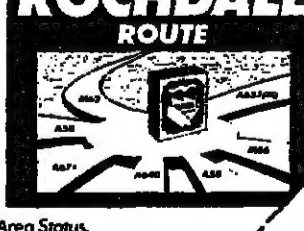
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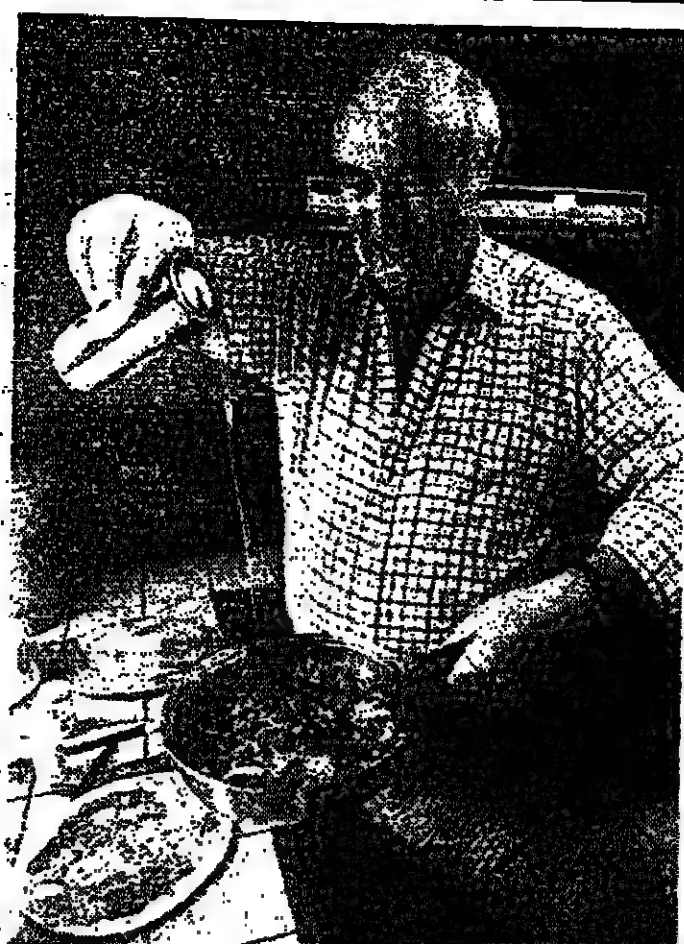


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MONDAY PAGE

Paul Pickering on the flowering of vegetarianism

A green and pleasant band



EASING THE PAIN

Bill Maynard
"I became a vegetarian three years ago, basically because my wife was ill. She had cancer and has now died. Nearly every book I read on a cancer cure recommended vegetarianism. I read so many books it put me off meat altogether. I used to suffer from gout and was on three tablets a day which had the unfortunate effect of making your joints lock. When I became a vegetarian the gout went. The doctors said it had been from the build up of uric

acid in all the meat I ate. I took myself off to New Zealand and started eating meat and the gout came straight back.
"People still think it's a bit odd to be a veggie. Had my wife not been ill I would not have realized how harmful meat is. I also lost weight because instead of having a sandwich, I ate the right food. You look a bit silly asking for a carrot sandwich. It hasn't affected my career. I'm playing a villain for a change in a coming episode of *Minder*. And I don't think he's a veggie."

When Graham Greene introduced the wonderfully dotty presidential candidate Mr William Abel Smith in *The Comedians*, vegetarians were fair game. A character who stood for the White House in '48 on a no-meat ticket and thought he could soothe the murderous Tontons Macoute with carrot croquettes was an exotic every-one could laugh at. Veggie were regarded as a cranky minority who affected beards and sandals.

Now, if J. R. Ewing rushed into the Cattleman's Club set on some piece of nastiness or other, no one would blink if the scriptwriter suddenly made him a vegetarian. "I see ol' J. R.'s into soya futures, maybe we should jump in there too," Cliff Barnes might snarl over a suddenly passé steak and before one could say 'Money', there would be countless books and videos extolling the Dallas Diet of honey n' grits.

We live in a decade obsessed with fitness and longevity. No one thinks millionaire Larry Hagman, who plays the vile J. R., is in any way weird for being a vegetarian in real life, wanting to live to a ripe old age and organically enjoy all his dollars. Actors have led the field in this self-centred fashion and unhealthy eating is a scandal worse than adultery in Hollywood. When the late Steve McQueen ballooned to 16 stone and more from an addiction to hamburgers, the gossip columns started to treat him as something obscene, another Fatty Arbuckle.

It's a very short step from cutting down calories and increasing the roughage to forgetting about meat, fish

and eggs altogether. And vegetarianism has never really been just a cissy fad.

Robust writer and socialist George Bernard Shaw was a veggie long before the new narcissism reared its toupee head. The Vegetarian Society points out. It is none the less delighted by the fashionable new image. The popular hero of the 1980s looks after himself (as no one else will) even James Bond



Hitler and Hagman - veggies

rewritten today would probably be a vegetarian.

But there is a skeleton in the cupboard. "Yes, Adolf Hitler was a vegetarian; he didn't like killing animals," said a Vegetarian Society spokesman. The Führer forgot to extend the rule to people and somehow one expects veggie to be full of enlightened self interest, if not downright nice, and refrain from starting global conflicts hell bent on world domination.

Before his final exit, Hitler did for vegetarianism what Mark Thatcher has done for long distance rallying - drove it completely off the map. It took the movement years to recover and for a

time even the political purity of Marmite was in doubt. The return of meat after the war was linked in many minds with freedom and democracy.

But the 1984 vegetarian is no apologist, nor is he likely to be an airy idealist in a Legalize Marijuana T-shirt just back from Greenham.

The new veggie is far more likely to be an electronics executive who drives an Audi Quattro and works out his probable Vitamin B 12 deficiency on a fourth generation micro computer. He has arrived at his "system efficient" approach to food through a positive thinking course and needs only a little Kendo in his spare time to keep trim. Meat is now as neanderthal as Keynes or squash and if you meet Super-Veggie at a dinner party you feel like drowning him in the creme brulee, only he looks too fit.

But a brave new veggie world would be nice for the beasts and one would no longer have to think of nifty explanations to nieces on why Mr Baa Lamb or Mrs Moo Cow had vanished without trace. Soon, lamb chops will seem as strange as stir frying the dachshund or the budgerigar. The only thing not to recommend immediately hanging up the bloody cleaver is that vegetarianism is becoming too fashionable, like India or the Golf GTI.

And at this moment my beloved has stifled the temptation to "come out" of the sprouting shed and be a veggie by bringing me a tasteful 48 layer slab beef sandwich. Dreadfully sorry, Mr Moo.

Paul Pickering



WE ARE NOT ALONE

Peter Cushing
In the Dracula films I always played the goody against the force of evil who was most certainly not a vegetarian. I think people now do not imagine it eccentric or odd; the papers are full of articles and even recipes so I am sure I'm not alone. I turned to it in 1971 after my wife died, mainly because I did not agree with the cruelty caused to animals in modern farming. You just have to go round an abattoir. Animals were put on earth to be used not misused.

"I'm not against people eating meat, although I don't; I

think animals should get the dignity they deserve. At the moment they are herded into terrible confined spaces and know something is up. They should be dealt with in the best possible way, not the cheapest. People also should consider the terrible methods they use to make animals put on fat or to produce foie gras. Vegetarianism must be a healthier diet, though that for me is secondary. But some people do need meat. They used to have to give Bernard Shaw secret meat extract injections when he was very ill. He would have been furious."

OVERWEIGHT DOWN UNDER

Gary Glitter

"It's been two years now and I started because I had a weight problem. I used to go to a well known Harley Street chappie who gave me injections and lethal pills. I just used to eat meat and every time I lost weight it made me aggressive and horrible. A tour of Australia was coming up and I was 15½ stone. I could not bear to go on that hyper-cosmetic type of diet again. Instead, I cut out all fat for a while and it became such a drag to explain in restaurants I decided to leave meat out

altogether. Next I cut out fish, and the weight came off so easily.
"We do eat too much meat and I don't fancy it any more because it's like eating dead bodies and I prefer live ones. I'm between 11½ and 12 stone now and have just made a new record. My skin is so much better and I can enjoy vegetable curries and the odd beer. I was a war baby and can remember when the Sunday joint had to last a week. Meat was very much a boom time thing of the '60s."

DOYLE À LA CARTE

Martin Shaw
"I'm 39 now and have been a vegetarian for 13 years. The question was whether one could live well without killing. The only reason for killing something was that one liked the taste, which just isn't a good enough reason to take life. I used to really love meat, but when I allowed myself to see what I was doing because I preferred a certain taste it was abominable. I stopped overnight.

"A lot of us are concerned with protesting about saving the whale or world hunger, even the cruise missile. But if you start

with yourself you can eradicate the frame of mind that terminates in cruise. It's something I can do myself and nothing is hard to keep up if you make a real commitment. It's as easy as not having to think about murdering someone. But you cannot say 'I'm going to try it'; that's weedy. And there are times when it has given me hassles. When I made *Operation Daybreak* in Czechoslovakia they did not seem to have a word for vegetarian. But there was never any temptation to revert. It's not a sacrifice and I never feel I have to control myself."

MR SPEAKER'S ORDER

The Rt Hon. Bernard Weatherill
I became a vegetarian as a result of seeing the famine of 1942 in Bengal. The consumption of meat is not just a question of cruelty to animals, but of cruelty to people. It's the duty of politicians to look ahead and the world's hungry could be fed if 10 per cent of the grain now given to animals were used for human consumption. We grow twice as much food on this planet each year as is necessary to give everyone an adequate diet and we are obsessed with animal protein.

"In Britain we spend a

ridiculous £100 million a year on slimming aids to avoid the consequences of over eating. That cannot be right. But I have a great hope for the future. There is now even a vegetarian chef in the House of Commons. I have not managed to convert my wife yet, although she never eats meat when we are alone. It's strange, 150 years ago they abolished slavery and I'll bet 150 years from now people will say with horror that in 1984 they used to eat meat. The image has changed; once vegetarians all wore sandals and went looking for fairies. We really need a new name."

Wishbone and drumstick

I had one wish for my son when he was born: that there would be something he really wanted to do, and that he would have the talent to do it. Walking to nursery school one day, he suddenly said, "When Ringo Starr dies, I'll be the Beatles' drummer." Record labels were the first things he could read. My mother gave him a pair of size one knitting needles, and he used to drum along with *Top of the Pops* on the arm of the sofa.

As he grew older, he could reel off chart positions, group line-ups, song writers, vocalists' aliases. By the time he was twelve, his Christmas and birthday consisted of about a dozen square flat parcels. He always supplied a neatly written list of the albums he required, assured us we need not buy them all. But between us, I think we usually did though the older he got, the more obscure the artists became. He'd had some acoustic guitar lessons, and was beginning to compose songs. Academically, he was very bright when he felt like it.

Then a supply teacher came to his school who was a rock drummer in his spare time. He taught my son all he knew about drumming, and told us we ought to buy him a drum kit. So we did. He practised from five to seven virtually every evening for two years and nobody ever complained. "He's get-

FIRST PERSON

By Paddy Kitchen

ting better," they'd say. "Faster." Louder, too. The street should have been awarded a gold medal for good neighbourliness.

But conversations with some friends started to run like this. "What's your son up to now?" - "Learning drums."
"For the school orchestra?" - "No, Rock drums."
"Oh dear." - "Why?"
"Well... I mean. And his stepfather so loves opera."
"He likes pop music too."

"Well, I'm sure your boy will grow out of it. He's only 14, isn't he?"
He formed a band with an older friend who had left school and played guitar. His schoolwork and school behaviour deteriorated drastically. We used to try to get over to him that, although we did not expect him to go to college if he did not want to, and certainly did not want him to give up the band, it was perfectly possible to play music and study.

A year later, conversations went like this: "How's your son doing at school?" - "He was expelled."
"But what's he doing?" - "The band are beginning to get gigs, and he's writing songs."
"But will he sit his O-levels?" - "No."

Six months later. "How is your son's... er... group doing?" - "Fine. He's living in a flat with the guitarist and another friend. They've got a girl manager who's got them a record contract."

My son was 22 recently. The band broke up long ago; they made an album, and had one appearance on the *Old Grey Whistle Test* - and he is married to their manager, who had been waiting for the punk phase to pass before launching into a career as a singer. Her new solo single, produced by my son is just out. He discovered he didn't really like performing in public, but loves working in recording studios.

They both write songs, and we talk to them about their music a lot. I've been longing to see the inside of a studio, but realizing it was like wanting to see a chef cooking rather than sampling his meal, and we're always given the records, not to mention copies, of master tapes.

However, over birthday celebratory dinner, I tentatively voiced curiosity. "I thought you were never going to ask," he said. "I mean it's not something you can inflict on someone by suggesting it. They might find it boring." He grinned and looked pleased. He wasn't christened, so I'm not sure on what occasion the good fairy granted me my one wish.

Flying in the face of fashion

It seems like only yesterday that a US airline, bowing to feminist displeasure, dropped its "I'm Flossie, fly me" campaign. Yet here we are again, no lessons apparently learnt, faced with another bit of sex in the sky propaganda, this time on behalf of British Caledonian. Its ad shows a Caledonian of business drooling over Brit Cal's tartan-suited toistie of an air hostess.

The repercussions of this campaign have been serious: other airlines are now trying to ground their mature stewardesses, although I suppose they might bend the rules a little if Joan Collins or Britt Ekland offered themselves up to serve plastic sandwiches.

The worry about all this is that it means that the way a woman looks is again a legitimate subject of debate, and that means that too many women are going to spend too much time fretting about whether to wear their blue shoes with their black suit instead of on more valid matters. I am all for the Prime Minister giving a boost to British Fashion Week with a party at Number 10, but I thought she went too far and was too frivolous in giving a newspaper interview (splashed across two pages) which provided a frock by frock breakdown of her current wardrobe.

And here is Audrey Slaughter, on the point of launching a new magazine for career women, dismissing the cookery clement in her publication as "food will be more of an assembly line job and will major really heavily" on automation in the kitchen, while at the same time handing over the fashion pages to Jean Muir, a

PENNY PERRICK

designer whose obsession with sartorial perfection is almost frightening.
Here also is Brenda Dean who, in the week she was elected the next general secretary of the print union Sogat '82, made a point of stating her keen interest in looking lovely... "I make no apology for being a woman... I always dress in a feminine way..." Well, OK, but Arthur Scargill didn't get where he is today by spending half the morning at the hairdresser.

The point is that, in everyday life, it really doesn't matter whether or not you are a devoted follower of fashion. It would obviously be to her advantage if Shirley Williams were to stop wearing a particularly nasty purple wool dress with a pattern of violently coloured squiggles on it since, seeing her in it, one suspects that anyone daft enough to buy a dress like that mightn't be too clever at running the country. Yet, should she come up with some brilliant piece of political planning, her lack of anything that bears any resemblance to a fashion philosophy will go momentarily unremarked. At least, I hope it will.

By far the best dressed person on this newspaper is Bernard Levin: I suspect that searching out the ultimate tweed jacket is one of his unsung enthusiasms. But it isn't his pleasing appearance that makes editors wave their chequebooks at him; it's his gracefully convoluting prose style, a style that he would no doubt still be the master of even if, heaven forbid, he came to the office in a polyester safari suit.

To get back to that Caledonian girl. She may be younger, prettier, slimmer than her counterparts but I doubt if that's enough to lure the most jaded businessman aboard her aircraft. What he wants is promptness of departure and arrival, edible food and his gin and tonic brought to him fifteen seconds after take-off even if the bearer is a none-too-fetiching, wrinkled, middle-aged harpy.

Computers may be helpful in schools, boardrooms and betting offices, but they should be taken out of politics. On the parliamentary scene, all computer technology seems to do is make a drama out of a crisis. The latest example came from filmed reports of the election in El Salvador, which showed tense officials having to wade through reams of print-out to find the names of prospective voters. Reading a computer print-out is the equivalent of listening to an anecdote told by someone with a very bad stutter who repeats some sentences and never gets the end of others. Nearer at home, the last Labour Party Conference nearly had collective heart failure when its computer refused to divulge the name of the new leader.

And a recent issue of *The Social Democrat* carries a heart-rending story to the effect that the party's software will only fit a machine which the party doesn't possess and which is no longer manufactured. Unless one of the now defunct models can be found, whole wads of SDP statistical analysis remains un-analysed. It's time those who pace the corridors of power went back to the low-tech drawing board.

The Swinfen peacocks (Wednesday, March 28) is a United Kingdom, not an Irish peacock.



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PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

Pompidou's prime time

Georges Pompidou, who in 1969 was elected as the second president of the Fifth Republic on the resignation of De Gaulle, died 10 years ago today.

"The Pompidou years," said the front of last week's *L'Express*. "Those were the good times". "Georges Pompidou," said the front of last week's *Journal du Dimanche*. "Orgies!" The British, admirers though we are of the achievements of the Gaullist governments, may not have realized that the times were that good. But it turned out, on closer inspection, that the orgies were not available to the average French citizen. You had to be a member of the Pompidou circle in order to qualify, the *Journal* reported. *L'Express*'s reminiscences were of more prosaic Pompidouian achievements such as economic growth and technological advances. *L'Express* produced sufficient evidence for its claims. The *Journal* produced none for its.

When I expressed mild surprise at the view that Pompidou never seemed on the face of it to be a material, a French friend explained that everything was all right because nobody believed it in the first place.

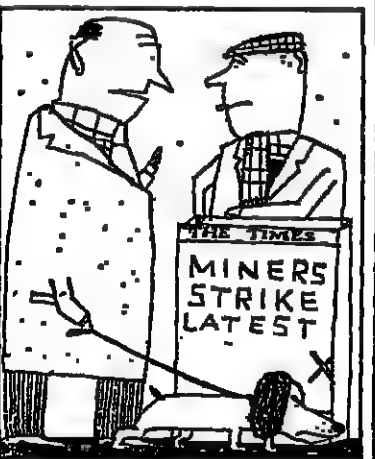
This is confirmed by a large and respectable biography of Pompidou published last week by M. Eric Roussel, of *Le Monde*. The book contains a certain amount of new information about the Markovitch affair. That was the one which began in September, 1968, shortly after de Gaulle dismissed Pompidou from the premiership for, according to legend, becoming too popular as a result of ending the strikes and student disturbances of that year. Pompidou shed new light himself posthumously. In a memoir published in 1982, M. Roussel goes further.

Markovitch was the murdered bodyguard of the actor M. Alain Delon and had, it seems, some connexion with the orgy industry. Rumours started appearing in the press to the effect that a famous politician was involved. Pompidou discovered that the rumours were about him, learning the fact from a friend whom he blamed upon in the street. Pompidou blamed various Gaullists.

The Prime Minister at the time was M. Couve de Murville. Pompidou's new biographer, writes: "As for the role played by the prime minister, it raises a certain number of questions. In effect, it is now clear, not only that Maurice Couve de Murville did not show an excessive zeal in warning Georges Pompidou of what was being plotted against him, but that (some people) acted in influential circles in a way which did not particularly conform to Pompidou's interests." The biographer adds that a diplomatic counsellor from the Prime Minister's office told a number of foreign ambassadors: "Pompidou is finished".

According to the book, Pompidou's widow since these events, has never shaken M. Couve's hand. Furthermore, giving his source as "personal archives of the author," the writer adds that in 1969, seated in the Pompidou home in Sologne "under a picture by Utrillo," and after a day's hunting, Pompidou observed M. Couve: "I could kill him with my bare hands." M. Couve escaped the late president's bare hands and lives on as a backbench Gaullist deputy for a distinguished part of Paris.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's not serious yet. There are enough police for at least eight weeks."

Rodin's *The Kiss* must have some claim to be the most famous item of sculpture since the Renaissance, so it is with some glee that people in Paris have seized on a theory that it might not have been all his own work. An exhibition is attracting huge crowds at the Rodin Museum to the sculpture of Camille Claudel, the sister of the poet Paul Claudel, and the woman with whom Rodin lived at the turn of the century. In 1913, at the age of 49, she was committed to a mental asylum until her death 30 years later - the papers required to do so being signed by either her mother or her brother (it is unclear). It is suggested that they were scandalized by her way of life which they feared might, among other things, damage Paul Claudel's career as a diplomat (he eventually became ambassador to Washington). Her affair with Rodin coincided with some of Rodin's finest works. Above all, *The Kiss* is now held to bear a resemblance to a work of hers in the exhibition called *Abandon* which, up to a point, it does. As a result, the feminists are rampant. They have produced a play and a book, as if producing masterpieces which their lovers then pass off as their own is the sort of thing which, like the housework, is part of the feminine condition.

Which side will crack first in the miners' dispute? Paul Routledge reports



Confrontation at the colliery: a "provisional" wing of the labour movement now wants to widen the protests

Unions at the abyss

In the wake of the Govt's enforced de-unionization at Cheltenham GCHQ, Len Murray, the general secretary, has seen his authority undermined - most obviously by the general council's refusal to end a boycott of the National Economic Development Council. He is by no means the lame duck leader that some of his left-wing critics would wish him to be, but his own weakened position and the divided nature of the general council make it less likely that he can lead the NUM picket line that will be successful.

Meanwhile there is a drift of men back to work in Lancashire and the Midlands, and, paradoxically, a drift towards the barricades on the part of unions supporting the strike. It is a mess that pleases few, certainly not Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, who has let it be known that he would prefer the NUM to sort out its problems to avoid damaging the party's recovery in the poll.

If not the TUC, who will break the deadlock? The studied silence of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, suggests that the view of its former chairman, Jim Mortimer, still holds good: that it is not the job of Acas to try to sort out a miners' strike. The Government seems happy with the stalemate, expecting the whole dispute to collapse its way, and the coal board is evidently pinning its hopes on a gradual return to work in the moderate areas, leading to a national ballot in which the men reject industrial action.

It is a nice calculation, but will it work? An NOP poll in the *Mail on Sunday* suggests that 51 per cent of the men would vote now for a strike, and only 34 per cent would oppose one. On that showing, the militants need to convince only 4 per cent of the uncommitted to pull the 53 per cent majority for all-out strike as required by the NUM rule book. The present crop of political

obituaries of Mr Scargill may be premature.

That should not come as a total surprise, unless prejudice has finally triumphed over experience. Most big disputes develop logic of their own and the coal strike is no exception.

The massive police operation, which nobody could have predicted a month ago, has had an impact on the miners' outlook. Perhaps it has not erased the unpleasant memories of Yorkshire flying pickets, but it has, as the security cordon proves more successful, the very pervasiveness of the police presence is beginning to displace picketing as the locus of the argument. And that shift plays into the hands of the left.

In Yorkshire, where the strike began, there is also some perplexity on the ground as to where the next step for the rank and file should be. The picketing is becoming less and less effective as the police pick off drivers and threaten them with arrest if they move out of the coalfield. By building up a log of the cars being used, the police are gradually immobilizing the militant miners in their home villages. With the strike going into its fourth week, the colliers are finding this experience frustrating, and there is a risk of more impulsive acts.

The situation is volatile; and it is impossible to predict with certainty how it will develop. The miners' national officials are stalling on the moderate coalfields' demand for an emergency executive. In the meantime they must be calculating that the longer they hold off, the more probable it is that the inevitable national ballot will go their way. Some left-wingers are even thinking beyond that stage to a continuing strike in Yorkshire, Scotland and south Wales and other areas, even if there is an overall "no" vote. That is uncharted country, even for them.

The received wisdom is that the miners will comply with the majority view - whatever it is. After all, it is argued, the areas that voted "no" in the 39 per cent, pro-strike ballot of late 1971 stuck loyally with the union. Why, then, should the left ignore a ballot that goes against it? The question will be answered only by events. It was snowing in Yorkshire yesterday, and the pickets thought their prayers for a return of winter weather had been answered. Longer reflection may remind them that snow in April is more common hereabouts than a Thatcher U-turn.

Ferdinand Mount

Weighing the cost of firm rule

The late lamented Claud Cockburn claimed that there are only two important divisions of the human race. When trouble comes, members of Division X say: "I really think we ought to notify the police". Members of Division Y say: "Whatever happens, for pity's sake let's not get the cops mixed up in this". Cockburn was on to something, even if like most Marxists, he failed to grasp that the world is divided not into two classes, but into untempered. And one of the largest classes is their class of having-it-both-ways. In this instance, most of us fall into Division X and Division Y at the same time: we are relieved when the police appear on the scene, but we are also a little uneasy.

This ambiguity is clearly visible in the way the political argument has recently shifted on to fresh ground. The sort of questions now being asked by people who like asking questions are: Is the Government into places where they have no business? Does Mrs Thatcher threaten our civil liberties more than previous prime ministers?

The case of Miss Sarah Tisdall, the police action against the picketing miners, GCHQ, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, the abolition of the GLC and the Metropolitan counties, rate-capping, the Manpower Services Commission intrusions into the local education world, Norman Fowler's disciplines on the health service - all this may not add up to the beginning of fascism, the more temperate critics will concede, but it does have "sinister undertones", or possibly "sinister overtones", the difference between the two always being elusive.

Is the complaint true? And if it is, how much do people mind? The average Tory voter might award the Government eight marks out of ten on the above issues; the average Labour voter perhaps four out of ten. The real blood-and-iron authoritarian might give the Government ten marks out of twelve, on the ground that Mrs Thatcher should be biffing the unions much harder and should not have dissented from President Reagan over Grenada.

Only among the liberal intelligentsia, alas, the chattering classes, would you be likely to find a belief that the Government not only scores eight out of ten, but also that it should not have attempted any of the questions; picketing should be left to pickets, rates should be left to councillors, education to teachers, the NHS to doctors and the Civil Service to civil servants. The Government's business is to pay the cheques and appoint the quangos. It should keep its hands to itself and its fingernails clean. Some critics of Government interference or "centralisation" come close to regarding HMG as belonging, along with HM, to the dignified rather than the efficient part of the British Constitution, as appointed to reign rather than to rule.

This is a rum view. What do we pay governments for if not, every now and then, to do a spot of governing? Besides, some of the

things complained of are neither new intrusions into private or local life, nor specifically Thatcherish: the police actions on the picket line are hallowed by common law and the mention of "peaceful persuasion" in the Liberal Act of 1906; the Coalition Education Act of 1944 and Labour's 1946 National Health Service Act lay on ministers the duty to secure the effective provision of services; the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is a response - even if hamfisted one - to the report of a Royal Commission.

I do not thrill to the truncheon's thwack; nor would I like to be left out of the mass plunge in the Jacuzzi bath of missing; there are fewer nuzzling sensations than the nuzzling jets of the liberal conscience. The sentence on Sarah Tisdall was too harsh for a first offender; the GCHQ imbroglio could have been settled more gracefully; the Kent police did display an excess of zeal in stopping carloads of miners south of the Dartford Tunnel; and although much of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill does strengthen suspects' rights, it is a greater evil that policemen should be licensed to search our

I do not thrill to the truncheon's thwack; nor would I like to miss the mass plunge in the Jacuzzi bath of missing - there are fewer nuzzling sensations than the nuzzling jets of the liberal conscience

offices than that the odd felon should get away with it. I will even concede that Section Two of the Official Secrets Act could have been left as a dead letter until either some government can agree how to replace it, or every permanent secretary has learned how to use the office copying machine himself.

But in arguing that this or that provision of the law should be left as a dead letter and yet another duty of government should be dodged because it is too difficult, one ought to be uncomfortably mindful of the fact that the statute book is already as full of dead letters as a hollow tree on Hampstead Heath.

Even critics of the present Government, such as Sir Ian Gilmour and Dr David Owen, have in the past diagnosed impotence as the prime weakness of British government. If we accept that there is something in this diagnosis, we do not have to start yelling for the smack of firm government; still less should we be less vigilant than the professional defenders of civil liberties; indeed, an effective government would enforce several civil liberties which have been long neglected: the right of prisoners on remand to a speedy trial, for example. But we might perhaps be a little less trigger-happy with the charge of "authoritarianism" - and a little more attentive to the merits of the case.

Anne Sofer

How the old crowd squeeze democracy

Democracy, ah how we love the word! Barely a day goes by without its appearing in the expositions of leader-writers, the vox-pop utterances of television surveys, the purpler passages of the speeches or our political leaders.

We are the cradle of it, but, we solemnly pledge, we will never be its grave. The practice of dispensing with elections, denying people the vote is akin to using let-in-the-puppet dictators and totalitarian one-party states think they can get away with that sort of thing. Not us. Not here. The British people would not stand for it.

But hang on a minute. A great many of the British people are standing for it at this very moment, and some in particular who should know a great deal better, since their livelihood itself depends on the democratic process. I am talking about the great majority of members of the House of Commons, sitting on both Conservative and Labour benches, who are saying nothing about the fact that millions of their fellow countrymen have, in a crucial respect, lost their right to vote. The ballot boxes are being locked away, and the forces of the establishment are not letting the keys out of their grasp, however much ordinary people are being deprived of their democratic rights.

The words "We are being deprived of our democratic rights" are an exact quotation. But they are not - as you may by now be expecting in an article by a member of the Greater London Council - from an outraged Londoner protesting about the 1985 GLC elections being abolished. They are from a Nottinghamshire miner, interviewed on television, bitterly attacking his union executive's failure to have a national ballot on the strike. For we are witnessing not one but two examples of ballots being evaded most undemocratically. And, I repeat, the majority of members of Parliament have kept remarkably quiet about one of these infringements, while enjoying a good old polemical shouting match about the other. Their defence of democracy is decidedly partial and opportunistic.

On the GLC issue there is a plausible web of excuses. Government ministers and politicians are soothing and practical: the decision has been made to abolish the body, what can be the sense of spending time and money, hot air and energy, to elect a new council for only a year? In these circumstances (it is implied) isn't common

sense more appropriate than high-flown defence of principle? By contrast, Arthur Scargill's defenders are passionate. Something must be done against the oppressor, they cry, Ian MacGregor's diabolical plans to destroy the coal industry, to close pits one by one, leaving a trail of derelict communities the length and breadth of the land, demand extraordinary counter measures. In these circumstances (it is implied) isn't the defence of jobs more important than constitutional niceties?

What is depressing is the ease with which both sides fall into line, with barely a twitch of the adam's apple as they swallow what negligible principles they may have. It is a sorry sight: the pork barrel vote trooping through the lobbies, using the long hours of the committee stage of the Rates Bill to deal with their correspondence and looking up from time to time only when their vote is needed to hammer yet another nail into the coffin of local democracy; and the Labour front bench, silent and evasive on the miners' ballot issue, falling back on the old tactic of blaming the police for everything.

Of all the wise words written about the nature of democracy the truest I have read were in a children's book. Peter Dickinson's *The Devil's Children* is the first part of a trilogy about a future Britain in which mysterious revolution against all forms of modern machinery seizes the entire population: life reverts to the Middle Ages and feudal forms of government reappear. Only a small Sikh community is exempt from the hooking. "Of course," one of them remarks, "most people prefer to have their thinking done for them. Democracy is not a natural growth. It is a weary responsibility. You have to be sterling fellows... to make it work."

The test I am suggesting here for sterling fellows is a depressingly limited one. It is that MPs should condemn in no uncertain terms the evasion or suspension of a ballot wherever it occurs. After all they are supposed to be the professional front-runners at "making it work".

But on this test there are probably no more than 30 sterling fellows in the whole House of Commons. That is less than 5 per cent of the total membership and on any showing it is pathetic. What on earth do they think they're there for?

The author is the SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Falklands: beware the mushrooming myths

Two years after the invasion of the Falkland Islands, progress in Anglo-Argentine relations has been painfully slow since Mrs Thatcher sent President Alfonsín remarkably warm greetings on his inauguration in December and he responded with his now-famous "where there is a will, there is a way" message.

The British followed up the exchange - and a flutter of public statements on both sides - with a series of proposals on January 26. President Alfonsín gave a six-point reply in Caracas on February 1. After British protests he sent what seem to have been counter-proposals, rather than a reply, to London on February 17. Reports that there have been disagreements about the British reply within the Government have been hotly denied in Whitehall. Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons last week that the Argentine message was being studied and that a British reply would be sent "sooner".

Since British leaders owe their election, at least in part, to their stand over the Falklands War, the issue of Anglo-Argentine relations is ultra-sensitive to both. President Alfonsín is vulnerable to attacks from the nationalist right, always ready to accuse him of a sell-out. He cannot accept that Falklands sovereignty should be excluded from the agenda any more than Mrs Thatcher would like to see her formally agree to discuss it. Mrs Thatcher wants to talk about normalising relations, while maintaining her commitment to the Falkland Islands; President Alfonsín must reiterate Argentine claims to sovereignty, while wanting to "rebuild" relations.

There have still been no face-to-face contacts between representatives of the two governments; the visa requirement remains in force; Argentine and British airlines do not fly into each other's capitals; and *interventores* still sit in the directors' offices of British companies in Argentina. The state of hostilities still exists formally, although the "exclusion zone" has been removed, the "protection zone". However, since democracy came to Argentina there has been no Argentine incursion apart from last week's antics by Señor de Stefanía and his friends, who are probably trying to embarrass the Argentine government anyway.

For a time there were rumours of mediation efforts - both the Italian and the Portuguese governments were mentioned - and there have been sporadic attempts at telephone diplomacy, with occasional statements by both sides. Both governments, however, seem to have agreed to communicate in private and through the "protecting powers". The Argentines talk to Britain through the Brazilians, the British reply through the Swiss. The British ambassador in Bern relays messages to the Swiss Foreign Ministry, whose ambassador in Buenos Aires is instructed to pass them on; the Argentine ambassador in Brasilia passes Argentine communications to the Brazilians, whose embassy then contacts the Foreign Office. There is no room for nuances or atmospherics although the system is working well and has been remarkably leak-free.

If anything, Mrs Thatcher has, at least potentially, more room for manoeuvre. Opinion among the islanders cannot yet contemplate any discussion about sovereignty; but Falkland spokesmen such as Councillor John Cheek have said in interviews that they would have no serious misgivings if London and Buenos Aires were to seek to improve their relations. While Peronist deputies were voicing concern in the Argentine Parliament last month about suspected "secret talks" with Britain, the mood on the Conservative backbenches here was divided.

Though articulate Conservative opinion clearly favours a move out of the stalemate, and would not like to see the Prime Minister branded as "intransigent", media and public opinion also seems ready to shift. President Alfonsín's Caracas statement was greeted by a chorus of editorial approval. In a poll on Independent Television's *Weekend World* in February, 60 per cent of those questioned favoured talks with democratic Argentina, while opinion was more or less evenly divided over sovereignty. The same programme's poll in Argentina revealed that, for the electorate there, the economy and human rights were by far the most important concerns; only 6 per cent considered the "Malvinas" a priority issue.

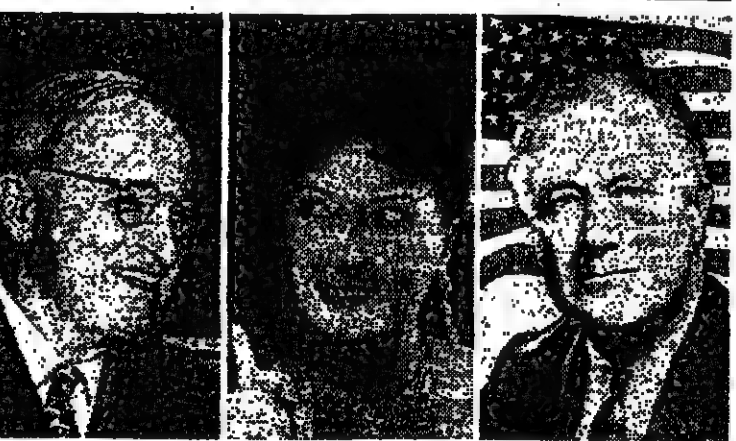
There are some substantial areas of disagreement. Argentines seem linked by what they call British "fortification" of the islands, which they want "dismantled". British ministers disliked the President's idea that talks should be held at the United Nations and doubt the

realism of Argentine assumptions that, in effect, the arrival of the new Argentine government means that matters can revert to the pre-1982 or even pre-1977 situation (and the previous Falklands talks got under way).

However for both leaders the forces of inertia are now very enticing, and political myths, in the absence of direct talks, are mushrooming on both sides. The language of cold-war confrontation is increasingly being used in private: the Argentines purport to see sinister Nato motives behind Britain's defence installations, and recent British talk about "confidence-building measures". Argentine inaction can be justified by the belief that the cost of defending the islands will in the end force the British into talks: the British can postpone dealing with President Alfonsín on the wholly spurious grounds that there could be another military coup soon in Buenos Aires. The atmosphere, now getting bitter, could soon become poisonous.

The long-awaited British reply may dissipate the bad odours and start the two countries talking. Relations between Britain and Argentina should be the main concern; they can and should be rich and mutually profitable. The alternative is an increasingly disproportionate obsession with abstraction and development, on both sides, of what Argentine commentators have aptly called the "Malvinization" of foreign policy.

David Stephen



(the man who should have been the first ham actor to become president). Some people thought that the sight of an actor playing an incumbent president singing and dancing on stage was a monument to American democracy. This could not happen in the Soviet Union, they said. Others thought the Russians had the right idea.

Political satire was fashionable in the 1930s. In "Leave It To Me" (1938), Bella and Sam Spewack sent up another aspect of presidential elections: an ambitious wife contributing to Roosevelt's campaign funds, and, as a result, her husband is rewarded by being appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union with, naturally, disastrous consequences.

The satirical trend was started by "Of Thee I Sing" (1931), the first musical to win a Pulitzer prize for drama. The story, by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind, told of John P. Wintergreen's campaign for the presidency, and, for good measure, took pot shots at most US institutions: Congress, the Supreme Court and even motherhood. Another target was the anonymity and unimportance of the vice-president. Wintergreen's running mate, Alexander Throtlebottom, is so un-

known in Washington that, in order to gain admission to the White House, he has to take a guided tour. Wintergreen wins the election thanks to some powerful slogans ("A Vote for Wintergreen is A Vote for Wintergreen") and a winning campaign song (by the Gershwins):

Wintergreen for President:
He's the man the people choose;
Loves the Irish and the Jews.

Unfortunately, the strategy was not so successful the next time. In the sequel, "Let 'Em Eat Cake" (1933), John P. Wintergreen runs for reelection and is defeated by John P. Tweedledee.

On the GLC issue there is a plausible web of excuses. Government ministers and politicians are soothing and practical: the decision has been made to abolish the body, what can be the sense of spending time and money, hot air and energy, to elect a new council for only a year? In these circumstances (it is implied) isn't common

Mark Steyn

My presidential candidate, 'tis of thee I sing

British politicians tend to be rather disdainful of the razzamatazz of the American presidential campaign. Labour purists seem to regard showbiz as a capitalist con trick, while Tory knights have never shown any desire to be endorsed by, say, Boy George or Dorothy Squires.

In the United States, though, presidential politics and showbusiness are inextricably linked, from celebrity fundraising events to campaign-trail one-liners by Hollywood gag-writers.

Sophisticates may sneer, but supposedly trivial factors can make a difference. For example, Senator Edward Kennedy's 1980 campaign improved greatly after he changed his signature tune from Aaron Copland's "Fanfare For the Common Man" to the theme from *Rocky*. He might have done even better if he had turned to songwriter Sammy Cahn, who, for his brother's campaign song 20 years earlier, had altered the words of "High Hopes" to "K-E-double N-E-D-Y, Jacks the nation's favourite guy".

Campaign themes, unknown in Britain, are an important element of American politics, and the master strategists of the smoke-filled rooms devote long hours to studying the matter. Sometimes they can simply amend an existing song, as with Eisenhower's "I Like Ike" (by Irving Berlin); on other occasions, a theme has to be commissioned. Wilson's "The One" (Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Back Again", "Wilson That's All" or "Teddy, Come Back" (Roosevelt, not Kennedy).

Perhaps the reason Americans

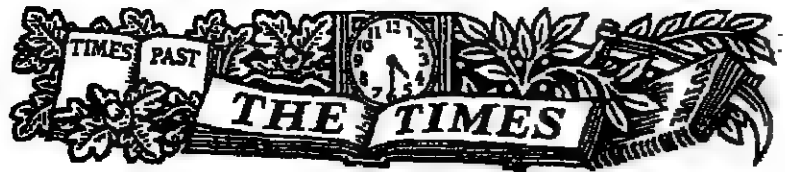
There's no business like politics: Truman, left, took nightly curtain-calls with Ethel Merman, centre; Roosevelt, right, was made the leading figure of a Broadway musical

accept these things more easily than the British is that, between elections, the entertainment world has frequently plundered presidential politics for material. Indeed, the connexions between showbiz and the White House stretch back beyond even President Lincoln's encounter with actor John Wilkes Booth.

The first US President had been in his grave only a short time when in December 1799 Thomas Abthorpe Cooper (an Englishman, incidentally) opened in a revue called "Mourning, Washington is Dead".

Since then, virtually every president has been portrayed on stage. In this century alone, President Wilson featured in "The Ziegfeld Follies of 1919", Coolidge in "The Garrick Estates of 1925", Hoover in "As Thousands Cheer" (1933), and in 1930 Truman appeared each night in "Call Me Madam" just to take a curtain-call with Ethel Merman.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, leaves his fellow presidents standing. He's the only one ever to have been made the leading figure of a Broadway musical, "I'd Rather Be Right" (1937), in which he was played by the Yankee Doodle Dandy himself, George M. Cohan



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NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF

Everyone must be relieved and delighted at the safe return of the Queen and her party from Jordan. In spite of the explosions that preceded her arrival there, it does not appear that she was in fact in any real danger at any time during her stay. The efficiency of the Jordanian security services has been vindicated once again, and so has the confidence in them of British ministers who had to take the difficult decision to advise the Queen to go ahead with the visit.

More than regrettable, of course, is the murder in Athens of a British Council official and a Greek member of his staff. But there is no proven connexion between this and the Queen's visit to Jordan, and even if there were it would not be a good argument against the visit. Whatever the considerations affecting the Queen's travel plans, they cannot include respect for the whims of terrorist groups which may decide to take "revenge" on British representatives anywhere in the world.

Anxiety about the Queen's safety was, quite predictably and to a large extent legitimately, played up by the news media in this country. It also, no doubt, contributed to the nervous and irritable behaviour of some British officials on the trip, who overreacted to what the media were saying and thereby made things worse. But that aspect of the trip should be kept separate from the question of its political significance, which has also been criticized. By referring in a public speech to "the tragedy which has befallen the Palestinian people", and to her host's efforts "to achieve a negotiated settlement of the problems of the Middle East", by laying a wreath at a memorial to Arab soldiers killed fighting against Israel, and by her perhaps unintentionally audible description of a map of Israeli settlements in the West Bank as "depressing", the Queen appeared, to some, to be taking sides in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

No criticism, in any case, should attach to her personally for this. She went to Jordan and

spoke and acted there on the advice of her British ministers, in her capacity as Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, not as head of the Commonwealth. This was no Christmas broadcast. British ministers are constitutionally responsible for it, and, while it may be true that the Queen personally was very keen to make this visit, ministers and officials would be quite wrong to try to shift any part of the responsibility to her.

Nor can they claim that her remarks do not deserve the attention they attracted, being no more than a very cautious restatement of well-known and long-standing British official views. To put such words in the Queen's mouth gives them a greater solemnity and ensures them a much wider audience—certainly here at home and probably also abroad. If it were not so the monarchy as an institution would hardly be worth having. By sending the Queen to Jordan the Government was making sure that King Hussein, his country, the Palestinian problem, his position on that problem, and British support for his position all received much more publicity than they would normally get. If the ministers and officials who planned the visit really did not understand this they are culpably naive.

It is more charitable to suppose that they did understand it and that they decided that these results were desirable. They do not need to be ashamed of their policy towards Jordan or the Palestinians. King Hussein is a tried and true friend who deserves British support. He certainly made one disastrous mistake in 1967 when he joined in the Six Day War on Egypt's side, but since then he has repeatedly advocated a peaceful solution of the conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242. His unwillingness to negotiate under the Camp David framework (to which he was not a party) does not mean that he is

against negotiations as such, but that he realizes he cannot negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians without the support of a majority among Arab governments and a majority of the Palestinians themselves. British support may not be of more than marginal value in helping him to line up that majority, but it is surely reasonable for the British Government to seek to maximize whatever value it does have; and since there is no significant difference of opinion between the main British political parties on this point, there is no obvious reason why the monarch should not be used to express the British view.

Equally it will be for the Government, not the Queen herself, to decide whether to accept the invitation to Israel which President Herzog may give her over lunch today, and the Government is likely to decide that while one may fervently hope for circumstances in the future in which such a visit would be desirable, in the present circumstances—that is, while there is an Israeli government that refuses to contemplate withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights—it would not.

What is desirable, on the other hand, is that the Queen should not be made, through her public reference to the Palestinian tragedy, to appear insensitive to Jewish suffering or Jewish concern. In *The Observer* yesterday it was suggested that "many Israelis will feel that it is only fair that the Queen should visit the Holocaust Museum, at Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem, and talk about 'the tragedy which has befallen the Jewish people'". But she does not need to go to Jerusalem to do that, nor is it the feelings of Israelis that should most immediately concern her. She has Jewish subjects here in Britain, and there are plenty of Jewish institutions she could visit. It should not be hard for her advisers to find a suitable occasion, or to find the right remarks for her to make.

TIME TO ACT ON THE LEVY

When the Commons debate the Trade Union Bill today, the leaderships of the Tory and Labour parties will ally themselves to block an amendment that would give every trade unionist the right to refuse to pay the political levy to the Labour Party without going through the formal opt-out procedure that most unions now impose. Mr Tom King and the TUC have reached their private bargain on the levy, and the Government does not mean to jeopardize the agreement by making any further effort to secure the rights of the individual trade unionist. Mr King will endorse in principle an amendment to end the paradoxical practice by which some employers assist unions in collecting the levy even against the expressed wishes of the members concerned—who have to claim the sum back from the union afterwards. But this concession will not affect the central issue of principle, or make any more satisfactory the fundamentally meaningless safeguards which the TUC has fobbed off Mr King with.

The bargain was fundamentally meaningless because it fell into that time-honoured category of bargains between TUC and Government characterized as "solemn and binding", in which

the TUC gravely declares its willingness to enjoin certain standards of conduct on member unions, which remain entirely free to take the advice or disregard it. In the narrowest technical terms, there has never been a threat to the basis of principle laid down for the levy in an Act of 1913. Individuals who object to having their money taken for the coffers of parties they oppose have always had at least the right to opt publicly out of the process. But in practice it has often taken considerable moral fortitude to do so, and it has meant risking the hostility of workmates and even effective exclusion from the union's councils. The proportion of members contributing to the levy has never borne much relation to the proportion who are Labour voters, and varies so waywardly from one union to another that it clearly represents the practice of the union more than the feelings of its members.

Mr King insists that he retains the right to seek statutory powers if he finds that the concordat with the TUC is not improving the lot of members. But the criteria for success or failure and the time-scale within which the movement is to set its house in order, have not been clearly

indicated. Without a commitment to act unless the problem has been rectified within, say, two years, the suspicion must linger that once the opportunity presented by this Bill has passed the Government will always find more urgent calls on parliamentary time than the plight of trade unionists suffering under a relatively impalpable and secondary injustice. The time to settle the matter definitively is now.

Of course, a variety of arguments can be found for inaction—there always can. Reopening the question might ruffle TUC feelings and perhaps damage prospects for the current wage round; but other forces will determine that issue in practice. It would lead to calls for equivalent treatment of the political contributions of companies; and so far as the situation really is parallel that should not be shirked. It might promote fundamental changes in the ways political parties find their funds, and to the extent that that might reduce their reliance on support tainted regardless of opinion, that might actually contribute to the health of British politics. The thing needs to be got right, and there will be no better time for getting it right than now.

INTELLIGENCE WITHOUT GLAMOUR

The Defence Intelligence Staff of the Ministry of Defence is the Cinderella of the secret services. If it has an image outside the secret world it is stolid and unglamorous. No John Le Carré has chronicled its tradecraft, which has nothing to do with "lamp-lighters" or "pavement artists". It has everything to do with poring over heavy documents on technology, "R and D" or economics, and constructing an anatomy of the sinews of military power possessed now and ten or twenty years hence by the country's potential enemies. Yet it matters: not least in the provision of economic intelligence which, as *The Times* reports today, is being afforded an increased priority in Whitehall.

It is doubly unfortunate, therefore, that the rare emergence of the DIS into the limelight last week should have been occasioned by a Security Commission report into the case of Lance Corporal Aldridge, a young Intelligence Corps NCO on temporary secondment to the DIS in the busy aftermath of the Falklands conflict in the summer of 1982. The DIS was so short-staffed it had to borrow clerks from the Army and, in this instance, it borrowed an individual willing to sell a Joint Intelligence Committee weekly

assessment to the Russians. MIS uncovered him commendably fast. But the Security Commission found a great deal to criticize in the laxity of DIS procedures, even in the light of an in-house review conducted after the unmasking of Aldridge.

The Prime Minister has sent in MIS with instructions to make more thorough-going improvements in security. She is right to do so. The authorities are also right, on a wider front, to tighten up positive vetting procedures for members of the secret services as reported in *The Times* last week. The future aroused by the arrival of the polygraph at the Government Communications Headquarters— it will be used in earnest at Cheltenham from today—has obscured less controversial but important improvements such as the adoption of the "neighbourhood inquiry" technique by officers carrying out positive vetting.

Clearly there is now a need to tighten up security procedures specifically inside the DIS, particularly the keeping and safe destruction of sensitive material. But there are wider issues here too. As the Security Commission showed last week, manpower cuts have stretched the DIS staff not least in the Directorate of

Economic and Logistic Intelligence which makes such an important contribution to the Joint Intelligence Committee's overall assessments for ministers. There is a dispute about just how deep the cuts have been.

From a strength of about 1,100 (precise figures are never given) in the mid-1970s, the Ministry of Defence says a saving of some 13 per cent has been achieved. Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, a former chief of the DIS, said publicly last November that the cut was more in the order of 35 to 40 per cent. Mr Heseltine's recent report, *MINIS and the Development of the Organisation for Defence*, sheds no light except to say "it would be desirable, under any option, to preserve the separate identity of the Defence Intelligence Staff". Not only security procedures but also the wider aspects of the DIS—its tasks, its role, its manning and morale—should be on the agenda of the Permanent Secretaries' Steering Committee on Intelligence. The permanent secretaries know that the DIS, unlike MIS, MI6 and GCHQ, has not been protected by the Prime Minister's "no cuts in intelligence" edict of 1979. They should ask themselves if economy in the DIS has been pushed too far.

Running before citizenship tide

From Mr David Carter

Sir, Reports in the media that the South African runner, Ms Zola Budd, has high hopes of competing for Great Britain in the forthcoming Olympic Games highlight the plight of the many thousands of both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth citizens awaiting process of their applications to become UK citizens.

Ms Budd has a number of hurdles to climb before she may compete. First, she must become a UK citizen. Second, she must join a British athletics club (and become a member of the British Amateur Athletic Board and the Amateur Athletic Association). Third, she must take part in the Olympic trials (and presumably do well). Lastly, she must be selected—and all this well before the games, now four months away.

What causes me surprise (and for reasons I go into below, alarm) is the speed with which the Home Office is reported to be able to process Ms Budd's citizenship application, for it is upon this that everything else hinges.

The BBC news on March 26 quoted four weeks. In any event, even if this were to be somewhat over-optimistic, it must be envisaged by Ms Budd and those who advise her that all should be well in hand before the Olympic trials—or why bother?

I, along with my colleagues at this law centre, daily advise and make representations on behalf of clients in connection with citizenship applications. Many are "straightforward", in the sense that there is never any doubt of the client's eligibility for citizenship as of right and yet such applications frequently take a year to process, quite often a good deal longer. I have never known any application to be processed within four weeks: if it were done within six months, it would be cause for celebration.

In a lot of these cases my clients have a pressing need for the expedition of their applications, e.g. the status and rights of entry of dependent children may rely on the application; yet representations to the Home Office are, in the vast majority of cases, ignored.

I should say that in the case of virtually all our clients there are a number of common factors—they are poor, black and from the "New Commonwealth". To them, their status is paramount. Without citizenship they are in limbo, if not de jure, certainly de facto and certainly in their own perception because they and their families have no security.

It may also be germane to assert that none have ever been lucky enough to have the backing of a British national newspaper and an international sports management agency and none have been aspiring athletes.

To be sure, none have had the prospect of (as reported) several hundreds of thousands of pounds being in the balance, depending upon the success of their applications for citizenship.

I wish Ms Budd no ill-will, but the eyes of the world, and particularly the black world, will be on Britain to observe the way we deal with her. The injustice will lie, not in the swift processing of her application by itself, but in the context of her fellow applicants for citizenship.

It is surely indecent haste to push ahead with her application—when there are so many in so much greater need having to wait so long. Yours faithfully, DAVID CARTER, North Islington Law Centre, 161 Hornsey Road, N7, March 27.

Archaeological loss

From Mrs Valerie Fenwick

Sir, Tomorrow a party is being given at 10 Downing Street for the new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. Unfortunately Cinders will not be at this particular ball: nautical archaeology has been left out of the commission's responsibilities. Instead it continues to languish in an unfunded corner of the Department of Transport.

Our maritime heritage came under the aegis, first of Trade and later of Transport as a result of the 1973 amendment of the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act. For more than 10 years Lord Runciman has nobly headed a committee, recently renamed, which designates a minute proportion of our historic wreck sites. Meanwhile the rest go unprotected and uninvestigated, at the mercy alike of sports diver and offshore minerals extractor.

More than 90 per cent of artefacts removed from the seabed are not reported to the Receiver of Wreck, as the law requires, the planned abolition of the receivership will further diminish departmental responsibility for them.

The Department of the Environment may have been reluctant to take on nautical archaeology in recent hard and uncertain times. Now it has handed over to the commission both its funds and its expertise in coordinating archaeological matters at a national level in a cost-effective manner. The commission could meet the needs of nautical archaeology with less than 1 per cent of its budget.

Whether in air or water, archaeology is a single discipline. Reflecting this, the Council for Nautical Archaeology is being incorporated within the Council for British Archaeology. A comprehensive commission policy for archaeological material on British territory and in British waters necessitates the inclusion of the nautical component now. Yours faithfully, VALERIE FENWICK, 1 The Old Hall, Highgate Village, N6, April 1.

A new future for Scott Lithgow

From Professor James Pickett

Sir, I am pleased that, contrary to recent Government intention, Scott Lithgow is to have at least the prospect of a future. I wish the new owners well in their efforts to return the yard to profitability.

I echo strongly, however, your editorial hope (March 29) that the transaction that has revived Scott Lithgow will come under the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee or some other competent body. I do this notwithstanding the fact that the stated net costs of the deal—£71m—are almost certainly less than the costs of closure, to the extent of some £20m on my reckoning.

Mr Bruce Millan, MP, was right to remind the House of Commons that a renegotiation of the Scott Lithgow-Britoil contract could well have been a cheaper alternative, particularly if the Government had acted in a firm and clear-headed fashion as soon as it became evident that the contract was in serious trouble. As it is, the mere act of waiting for the agreement with Trafalgar House and Howard Doris has cost the taxpayer some £7m.

The Government has acted in confusion and haste. There is no reason to doubt the Secretary of State for Scotland when he claims that he had been warning any who would listen that Scott Lithgow was in serious trouble for at least a year before the Britoil contract was cancelled.

Equally, however, there is no evidence that he or his counterpart at the Department of Trade and Industry had any serious contingency plan to be implemented if—as was likely—the warnings went unheeded.

The reallocation of the workforce was taken as adequate reason for foreclosing on a national asset and as adequate excuse for failure to weigh carefully the short and longer-term consequences of alternative courses of action.

In the event of Government having recourse to ideology and rationalization of its actions, these are poor servants of the taxpayer's interest. They are also a poor basis for industrial policy.

The Scott Lithgow decision offers many lessons for Government-industry relations which, carefully studied, could improve our record of industrial affairs. For this reason I would welcome a detailed and objective scrutiny of the origins, content and outcome of the Scott Lithgow crisis.

Yours sincerely, JAMES PICKETT, Director, David Livingstone Institute of Overseas Development Studies, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow, March 29.

From Sir William Lithgow

Sir, As the company's former vice-chairman, I read your editorial on Scott Lithgow with interest. You refer to British Shipbuilders' designation of the yard four years ago for offshore construction as imaginative. As many in the oil and offshore industry are aware, Scott Lithgow embarked on a programme of

New exam level

From Mr A. V. Wood

Sir, I was astonished at the response to Lord Flowers' letter (March 8) from the Headmaster of Whitgift School (March 14). Can Mr Raeburn really be serious in asking for yet another set of examinations in a structure which is already vastly overburdened?

Whilst not claiming a "strong academic tradition" such as a selective school can aspire to, we nevertheless send on 25 to 30 students to degree courses each year. At the same time we are trying to provide a full education for a further 200 in each year group. The cost in time, effort and money of examining these pupils at 16, 17 and 18 is entirely out of proportion with the end result.

The summer examinations taken here are not significantly different from any 11-18 school in this country. They include the CSE, GCE O and A levels on two (sometimes three) boards, C E for the one-year sixth pupils, RSA for typists and OA levels for some lower-sixth pupils.

They might also include exams for the City and Guilds Institute. Several of these are then offered again in the autumn. The financial cost of these is well over £10,000, a sum equivalent to a quarter of all the money I am allowed to run this school of 1,200 pupils. Fortunately this bill is paid by the authority.

To welcome yet another set of exams on top of this is irresponsible when the same aims of broadening the curriculum could be achieved by far simpler means. These could be an insistence by heads on a large

Docking of pensions

From Mr N. E. Ablett

Sir, As a fully retired civil servant, may I add the following comments on the suggestion (leading article, March 15) that, until he is fully retired, a civil servant's pension should be docked?

1. The suggestion is generally argued with particular reference to permanent secretaries taking up appointments as company directors on retirement. My recollection is that for every permanent secretary, there are something like 20,000 civil servants in lower grades and I would guess that for every retired permanent secretary in the boardroom there are thousands of his retired juniors supplementing their pensions as part-time gardeners, bar-men, supermarket cashiers.

2. The fact that Civil Service pensions are indexed-linked is irrelevant. If it were not, the other 90 per cent of the public sector where index-linking also applies would presumably have to be similarly treated and, for example, the retired general, private, police-

man, teacher, doctor, dustman, postman and miner would be liable to have his pension docked.

3. It is similarly irrelevant that the state old-age pension can be docked until age 70. The point fails to distinguish between the Government's role as government and as employer. If there is no distinction, then there should be the equivalent of a government health warning on application forms for recruitment to any form of government service.

I enjoyed my 43 years in the Civil Service (including six years in the Army during the war) and felt honoured to have spent the whole of my working life in the service of the Crown. But the current denigration, and ill-informed and invidious criticism, of the Civil Service would not lead me to recommend any young person to follow in my footsteps.

Yours faithfully, N. E. ABLETT, 1 Elmhurst Lodge, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey, March 24.

development in offshore technology and ocean engineering soon after its formation in 1970.

Our position was established in the fields of deep-water drilling and dynamic positioning, with Ben Odeco's first D P drill ship. A second vessel of this type was delivered to another highly successful Norwegian American consortium; two old and valued shipping customers had formed partnerships with drilling experts.

The threat of nationalisation, with a three-year brawl in Parliament and the draconian powers of the Secretary of State to interfere, crippled the orderly development of our business and its transition into twenty-first century markets and technologies. It drove away would-be petroleum engineering partners, who recognised in Scott Lithgow, not only outstanding physical resources, but an excellent technical and production team.

For responsible people involved in Scott Lithgow the last 10 years have been a nightmare. I insisted on leaving in 1978. The final insult was when the whole horrific cost under public stewardship was crudely equated to the numbers employed.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry later conceded it was an unhappy situation that reflected credit on "none of the parties". It is significant that both Trafalgar House and Howard Doris were anxious to take over the wreckage of what had so recently been a British success story under private enterprise. I am confident that our community's worldwide reputation for getting on with the job and excellence will soon be restored.

The British economy can only come right with a better appreciation of its engine room by both those on the bridge and those on the promenade deck. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM LITHGOW, PO Box 2, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, March 29.

State dependence

From Mr A. K. Dand

Sir, In your leader of March 23 you refer to "the lack of progress in this Government's original intention to reduce the role of the state in people's lives". It is ironic that, since 1979, a disturbingly high number of people have become totally dependent on the state through unemployment with a consequent increase in the "appetite" of the DHSS for spending.

May I suggest that if the Government wishes to reduce the share of the nation's resources taken by the state and to reduce its role in people's lives it should do so not by fiscal juggling, whether radical or otherwise, but by positive action to provide worthwhile employment for those unfortunate enough to be dependent at present on the taxes paid by the rest of us?

Yours faithfully, ANDREW DAND, 6 Cliftonwood Crescent, Bristol, Avon, March 28.

core of non-examination subjects in the sixth, or the introduction by the examination boards of broader syllabuses in existing subjects with supplementary papers at advanced level. Yours faithfully, A. V. WOOD, Headmaster, Liskeard School, Luxton, Liskeard, Cornwall, March 15.

Wakefield prisoner

From Lord Hylton

Sir, In fairness to the Home Office and to the Prison Governor, I should say that my information is that the prisoner Shane Paul O'Doherty (feature, March 28) now has weekly access to the sacraments, though on arrival at Wakefield he was not allowed to attend the Roman Catholic chapel.

It has also been established, through a parliamentary question, that he is not forbidden to speak to other prisoners, though he is, for the time being, segregated for most of the day, under Rule 43.

I hope that recent publicity and the risk of proceedings in the European Court of Human Rights will help the Government to reconsider its attitude towards prisoners with next-of-kin or young families living in Northern Ireland and now serving sentences in Britain for offences which none can condone.

Yours faithfully, HYLTON, House of Lords, March 29.

man, teacher, doctor, dustman, postman and miner would be liable to have his pension docked.

3. It is similarly irrelevant that the state old-age pension can be docked until age 70. The point fails to distinguish between the Government's role as government and as employer. If there is no distinction, then there should be the equivalent of a government health warning on application forms for recruitment to any form of government service.

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Yours faithfully, N. E. ABLETT, 1 Elmhurst Lodge, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey, March 24.

Youth training cheap at price?

From Mr Ray Hurst

Sir, In your own editorial version of "Question Time" (March 24) you implied that the Youth Training Scheme exists because of restrictive practices, wages councils and rigidities in the labour market, which you suggest "reduce the opportunities for youth employment". It is surprising that you fail to recognise that YTS is primarily intended to improve the foundation of both unemployed and employed young people. Also employment opportunities for young people have diminished significantly in many parts of the economy, not subject to wages councils regulations and where trade union representation is minimal.

Young people are experiencing a disproportionate burden resulting from current policies, whatever their causes or objectives. If the Government would release the statistics showing how many unemployed young people aged under 25 are still waiting to enter their first real job since leaving full-time education the extent of the burden would be more widely recognised.

The introduction of the Youth Training Scheme can perhaps be seen as only partially reflecting the Government's recognition of this problem.

You also suggest that the projected cost of the subsidy of the scheme is £1.4bn. However, you ignore that if one has regard to the expenditure which is being saved by not paying supplementary benefit to the 300,000 or so young people in the scheme and to the funding we receive from EEC, the net cost of YTS is much below the figure you quote.

This is a small price to pay by a nation until such time as young people also are afforded a genuine and real opportunity to enter work of their choice.

Yours faithfully, RAY HURST, Honorary Secretary, The Institute of Careers Officers, Careers Office, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Papal invitation

From the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

Sir, Clifford Longley (report, March 24) does less than justice to the response of Catholics in England and Wales to the Pope's invitation to join him in an Act of Entrusting to Our Lady.

He thinks we are playing it "in the lowest possible key" and says that we have not invited people to special cathedral services.

I am not the only bishop to have made the Act at a well attended cathedral service; others are doing so during parish services arranged long before the invitation came. I think every bishop has written to the priests about it; many of us have explained it in a pastoral letter read to all the people.

You are correct to mention that we have not asked priests to repeat the Act at Sunday Masses. However, that is not a mark of reluctance; the Act is rather long and we were not asked to do so. Nevertheless, we have sent to parishes a shorter version, which invites everyone to join us in the Act; it is certainly not "a minimal interpretation", as today's Mass on ITV has shown.

British Catholics are always anxious to avoid giving the false impression of devotion to Mary in any way detracts from devotion to Jesus Christ. The *Universal* editorial from which you quote is a reflection of that anxiety rather than a trenchant criticism of what Pope John Paul has done.

Finally, we bishops were neither ordered nor instructed to take part. We each received an invitation which I consider could have been declined without "appearing to challenge the Pope's authority".

Yours sincerely, HUGH LINDSAY, Bishop of Hexham, 800 West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, March 25.

The way we live now

From Mr A. J. Campbell

Sir, Can Bernard Levin ("Baying at the moon", March 24) swear, cross his heart and hope to die, that he has never ever used a spot of hyperbole in support of a perfectly legitimate point of view? And, however much he (and I) may disagree with the views and/or the tactics of the Greenham women, can he not concede that row of bare buttocks is not a meaningful contribution to the dialogue and may even appear to some of our more prudish contemporaries to be lacking in taste?

Yours etc, JOHN CAMPBELL, 6 Old Lodge Court, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, March 25.

From Mr Victor Epstein

Sir, Without wishing to discuss the merits or otherwise of masons, or, for that matter, of Jews, may I point out to Bernard Levin (March 27) that to be a mason is optional; to be a Jew is not.

Yours faithfully, VICTOR EPSTEIN, Guernsey Cottage, 93 South End Road, NW3, March 27.

Windy side of the law

From Mr Robin H. Phillips

Sir, Your editorial writer (March 28) was singularly appropriate, if possibly inadvertently, in his choice of the expression "a grave blow" in connection with the alleged unreliability of the Intoximeter. Yours truly, R. H. PHILLIPS, 4 Exmoor Street, W10, March 30.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 1: The Prince Andrew, attended by Wing Commander Adam Wise, this morning left Royal Air Force Base, Northampton (Station Commander, Group Captain C. E. Gould) in a VC10 aircraft of the Royal Air Force to visit St Helena, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Island becoming a Crown Colony, and Ascension Island.

Mr Douglas Cooper was present at the memorial service for Lord Amherst held at St Margaret's, Westminster on March 22.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Hodson will be held in the Temple Church at 4.45 pm on Wednesday, May 2, 1984.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Mr Rodney Atkins will be held at St Clements Church, Strand, on Wednesday, April 11, at 11.30 am.

Floral Luncheon

The annual Floral Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 9, at the Savoy Hotel, in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops. The President is Rear-Admiral James Ross and the chairman is the Marchioness of Ailesbury.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon J. A. Fellowes and Miss A. M. Birkmyre
The engagement is announced between John Fellowes, elder son of Lord and Lady De Ramsey, of Abbot Ripton Hall, Huntingdon, and Alison Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Archibald Birkmyre, of Helton, Cottage, West Tilley, Berkshire.

Lieutenant D. T. Bailey, USN
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs K. A. Bailey, of Dearborn, Michigan, and Sarah, daughter of Wing Commander J. Mitchell, of Kensington, and Mrs D. Wyckoff, of San Diego, California.

Mr J. C. J. Barrington and Miss S. A. Trenchard
The engagement is announced between John, son of the late J. T. Barrington and Naomi Barrington, of Bridgewater, Somerset, and Barbara, daughter of Peter and Ruth Trenchard, of Cranleigh, Surrey.

Mr P. J. Belsey and Miss T. J. Hepton
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Belsey, of Margate, Kent, and Tansy, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. E. Hepton, of Uxbridge, Truro, Cornwall.

Mr N. C. Cox and Miss C. Ng
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Dr and Mrs P. J. N. Cox, of Chesham, Surrey, and Corinna, daughter of Mr Ng Kim Beng and the late Mrs Ng, of Singapore.

Priests find way around Communion ban

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A Roman Catholic parish priest tells how he once noticed a young woman, presumably recently moved to his Liverpool council estate neighbourhood, who started appearing in church every Sunday with a small child. He was puzzled that she never went forward for Holy Communion.

More or less by chance, in the course of his parish visiting, he found himself invited into her home. She was surprised to see him. She had assumed, it emerged, that he knew of the divorce and was now remarried; and was shunning her for that reason. They talked at length: her first husband had been a drunken brute, a Roman Catholic; her second a decent man, vaguely a Protestant, whom she had married in the register office.

The priest told her two things: that he would submit her case forthwith to the local church marriage tribunal, to see if her first marriage was invalid in the church's eyes; and she should henceforth receive Holy Communion, with a good conscience, allowing him to shoulder her whatever moral burden there was to carry.

She broke down and wept. It was the lifting of a great weight from her. The priest privately tells the story - needless to say none of the facts he revealed were learnt under the seal of the confession - as part of the experience that has made his priesthood worthwhile.

Yet he may well have stepped out of line, according to what seems to be the Roman Catholic Church's present official policy on Holy Communion for those of its members who are divorced and remarried. The Pope does not allow such latitude. "So much the worse for him," the priest remarked.

How typical he is would be difficult to judge, but he is certainly far from alone. Because of the Pope's extreme conservatism on this issue, however, and the continuing English Catholic distaste for airing differences in public, the tension remains below the surface. The bishops give no guidance, or talk obscurely about "trusting the judgment of the parish priest," a phrase which not everyone is equipped to decode.

It is well known that the English bishops were in the forefront in 1980 in trying to relax official policy in Rome - and that they failed. After that, they did not feel they could issue guidance contradicting Pope John II. Nevertheless the general drift towards unofficial relaxation seems to have continued since then, as individual priests have struggled to work it out for themselves.

Roman Catholics are not immune from divorce: the evidence is that it is no less prevalent in that community than any other. But no one really knows how many subsequently marry without the church's blessing and leave the church: how many do so but deem themselves sacramental unchangeable, like the woman in the story; how many find a sympathetic priest who ushers them back to Communion, as she did; or how many find their own way back.

Yet it is probably the biggest single issue facing the Catholic Church in England, far more destructive and far more confused than the contraception issue. What at least is clear is that the rigid discipline still maintained in theory and still widely believed to be binding without question, has done nothing to hold marriages together, as the statistics show.

At the point of separation and divorce, remarriage is still a far off, consequent problem with the church further still. Indeed it is not the church's policy to regard the act of divorce as itself sinful at all: it is regarded as ending the effects of a marriage in civil law, of no great significance for the church's own jurisdiction.

The New Code of Canon Law, in force since last year, is held by some canonists to be helpful towards the more liberal view.

others are not so sure. Canon 912 states: "Any baptised person who is not a full member of the Catholic Church and who is not admitted to Holy Communion."

Nothing in the new code appears to forbid a Catholic in an "irregular" marriage, as the phrase goes, from Holy Communion, unless there is consciousness of grave sin. And it is a principle of the interpretation of canon law, as of English law, that a restrictive rule should be interpreted narrowly.

It is also noteworthy that the Catholic Church's most recent public utterances about the situation of remarried divorcees do not impute to them the sin of adultery, but describe them as publicly contradicting the church's teaching on indissolubility.

The case against relaxation, as usually encountered, is that the Pope's judgment is binding in this matter, and that he has good reason for it: the fear being that anything but a hard line will start the church on the slippery slope towards the remarriage of divorcees in church.

But it seems that even many conservative-minded priests find it difficult to tell one individual that he or she must abstain from Communion regardless of the spiritual consequences, because it serves an ultimate public good.

His instinct, exemplified in his early work, *Hearers of the Word*, was to penetrate to the heart and root of whatever he wished to affirm as true. It is hard to say how early this instinct threatened to conflict with his inherited docility. But it is clear from his own writings (eg, "Reflections on methodology in Theology", *Theological Investigations*, vol. XI), that two factors were determinative.

First, neo-scholasticism, a philosophy that had come to rank as foundational for Catholic theology, was visibly losing its credibility as exclusively correct, the twentieth-century version of the medieval scholasticism. It was a philosophy which was proof against neo-scholastic criticism (Rahner himself became a great admirer of the "existentialist" Heidegger).

Secondly, the Bible documents had become subject to historical criticism and a modern practice of Hermeneutics.

These two factors meant for Rahner that he had to reconsider and reconstruct the foundations of his philosophy and theology within the ambit of a Catholicism from which he never wavered.

The turning point was Vatican II, inaugurating that Council, John XXIII made the point that the essence of Christian truth was one thing, verbal formulations of it were another; the latter were, he implied, subject to reinterpretation, if not to alteration. There was of course, an activity reactionary group in the council; but it is a mistake to suppose that the council was a variety of Catholicism which he never wavered.

Later, Rahner himself was an outstanding exponent. Rahner's philosophical-theological work was not so much a reconstruction of the foundations of his philosophy and theology within the ambit of a Catholicism from which he never wavered.

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OBITUARY

FATHER KARL RAHNER, SJ
Eminent Roman Catholic theologian

Father Karl Rahner, SJ, who died on March 30 in Innsbruck at the age of 80, was perhaps the most distinguished Roman Catholic theologian of the present century, and one whose influence reached far beyond the boundaries of his own Church. His own approach, which began from the basic conviction that all human experience entails an awareness of the whole of being and therefore, implicitly, of God, he described as Transcendental Theology; it led directly to the hotly-debated notion of "anonymous Christianity", a term which will always be associated with his name.

The Roman Catholic Church had developed, during the 19th century, a strongly authoritarian claim and practice; and in the early years of the twentieth century, when Rahner was a child, had set out to suppress "Modernism" root and branch, and to prevent, if possible, its resurgence. Rahner was brought up in a devoutly Catholic German family and must have learnt habits of unbounded, pre-critical docility and obedience. He joined the Society of Jesus as a young man, and his official attitude of unquestioning obedience to the Pope would have done little to change his attitude.

But it happened that Rahner was equipped from birth with an intelligence, and a power of assimilating relevant data, and a critical faculty which, in combination, were quite exceptional.

His instinct, exemplified in his early work, *Hearers of the Word*, was to penetrate to the heart and root of whatever he wished to affirm as true. It is hard to say how early this instinct threatened to conflict with his inherited docility. But it is clear from his own writings (eg, "Reflections on methodology in Theology", *Theological Investigations*, vol. XI), that two factors were determinative.

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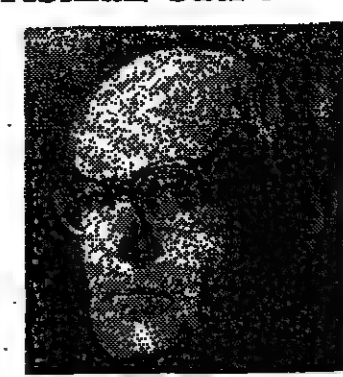
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logical position is given in summary in his *Foundations of Christian Faith* (1976, English translation, 1978). It can be seen as a vindication of Catholic Christianity in dialogue with the best of modern thought; and it is also a summons to genuine ecumenical theology and action.

Rahner was born on March 5, 1904 at Freiburg in Breisgau where his father was a history teacher, and was the fourth of seven children. On leaving school in 1922 he followed his elder brother Hugo into the novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Feldkirch in Austria.

His early training followed the standard Jesuit pattern, though in his philosophical studies he displayed an unusually close interest in the work of Kant, especially as it had been interpreted by Joseph Maréchal, SJ. After philosophy he was sent to the school at Feldkirch to teach Latin.

Among his pupils was the future Jesuit Alfred Delp, executed by the Nazis in 1945 on a charge of high treason. Rahner's theological studies were undertaken from 1929 to 1933 in Holland, and in the course of them he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1943 he was sent to the University of Freiburg.

The choice of his native city was critical for his intellectual development, for Martin Heidegger had been teaching there since 1928. Rahner was obliged to study under Martin Heidegger, a neo-scholastic professor of Catholic philosophy, but it was from Heidegger's seminars that Rahner drew most inspiration. He wrote his thesis in a traditional enough topic, Thomas Aquinas's theory of knowledge, but his interpretation of Thomism was such that Heidegger refused his support, and the doctorate was never awarded. The study appeared in 1939 as *Reis in Welt*. In place of the philosophy degree Rahner went to Innsbruck, where his subject was patristic theories on the birth of the Church from the wound in Christ's side, and it was for this study, which remained unpublished, that he was granted a doctorate in theology in 1939. But by that time he had already been appointed to the staff of the Jesuit faculty at Innsbruck.

Innsbruck was closed during the war, and Rahner went to work at the pastoral institutes in Vienna, though he was able to lecture in a variety of cities both in Austria and Germany. He served on a parish for a time in 1944, and only left it in 1945 to return to teaching, this time in the Jesuit house of studies near

Abbayia and Libya but he was captured in the Western Desert in 1942 and spent the rest of the war in imprisonment in Italy and Germany.

After the war the BBC took him on as a sub-editor in its news department but feeling rather deeply after a short period that the desk task was not his natural métier, he despatched him rather as being a misfit at home than as a promotion, to foreign shores as a correspondent.

This happy stroke proved the BBC's and Cuthforth's salvation. In Korea he became one of radio's most widely known correspondents, and his ear for detail, for the spontaneous remark or outburst of feeling lent his despatches from such desperate scenes as the stand of the Gloucesters at Imjin River such memorability and vividness.

He left the BBC soon after but became a freelance correspondent and travel writer for both radio and television featuring in many series including a radio autobiography, *European Journey*, for Granada TV. Besides many other travel documentaries and reminiscences.

Forgotten War was his book on the Korean War and *Order to a New Autobiography*.

Cuthforth's service in the Sherwood Foresters took him to

He managed a theatre at Colwyn Bay. His career diversified into films of which he made 18. With the coming of television he found himself in many roles and made many appearances before the advent of British television's most watched soap opera.

But once the role of Albert Tatlock claimed him, it did so for life, and though he often grumbled the typecasting of this species of fame, he played the cantankerous and generally impetuous pensioner in such a way as to make the character a key personality in the serial.

He was appointed MBE last year. Howarth was married to the actress Betty Murgatroyd.



Mr Jack Howarth, MBE, the actor and elder statesman of the Granada Television serial *Coronation Street*, has died in hospital at the age of 88.

Howarth had had a long acting career before joining *Coronation Street* at the serial's inception in 1960, but to millions he will always be remembered as Albert Tatlock, the grumpy pensioner, flat-capped and something of a skinflint, with his famous drink-clogging line, "Thanks, I'll have a rum" familiar also to the other habitués of the soap opera's local, the Rovers' Return.

Howarth was born in Rochdale in February 19 1886 and started his long theatrical career at the age of 12, playing children's parts with Churchill's

Science report

Biochemical test proves maternity

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Over the past few years some elaborate biochemical tests have been established to determine the paternity of a baby. They go far beyond a simple comparison of blood groups and include the analysis of enzymes in tissue-typing work, for matching a potential donor graft to a recipient.

The new tests have now been used in remarkable circumstances to determine beyond doubt the maternity of a baby. The analyses were carried out in connexion with the latest variation in test-tube baby procreation in which a woman of 29 donated an egg to a recipient of 25, who had complained for five years of amenorrhoea (absence of periods) caused by premature failure of the ovaries.

A single egg was implanted and inseminated by spermatazoa from the recipient's husband. At 38 weeks gestation a healthy baby boy was born.

Although the recipient woman had been diagnosed as suffering from a complete failure of the ovaries, she had

been undergoing hormone therapy. The tests were to make sure that the pregnancy was the result of the ovum transfer and not normal conception.

The transplant and the maternity tests were done by Dr Brian Tait and Dr Grant at the Monash University Hospital, Parkville, Victoria, Australia, and Dr Peter Luten and Dr John Leeton, of Monash University's Queen Victoria medical centre at Melbourne, Victoria. The donor, who was infertile because of a blockage of both the fallopian tubes, was a participant in the *in vitro* fertilization programme at Monash University, which has become one of the world's leading centres in test-tube baby work.

The means of deciding who the natural mother was depended on identifying substances that are referred to as human leucocyte antigens (HLA), which we inherit on the surface of all the cells throughout our bodies. They

provide a unique biochemical identity for each individual and also trigger off the complex train of events which lead to rejection of poorly matched organs or tissue grafts in transplant work.

The typing excluded the recipient as the biological mother and confirmed that the pregnancy resulted from the transferred embryo, since there were antigens for which the genes were present either in only the donor or in the recipient's husband which were inherited by the baby.

In a letter in the latest *Lancet* the medical team say: "This case is unique from an HLA point of view for two reasons. Since it is the first reported case of a successful embryo transfer it is also the first case of a woman giving birth to a totally HLA-incompatible infant, a fact of interest to foeto-maternal immunology, and, secondly, it is to our knowledge the first time that HLA typing has been used to confirm maternity."

Source: *The Lancet*.

Parliament this week

Commons, today (2.30 pm): Trade Union Bill, continuation of report stage; on Government motion on investment in education. Debates on current legislation in the EEC. (2.20 pm): Transport Bill, progress on remaining issues. (2.30 pm): London Regional Transport Bill, progress on remaining issues. (2.30 pm): London Regional Transport Bill, progress on remaining issues.

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Sotheby's
This week's sales

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Tues. 3rd: 10.30 am: Sculpture from the Collection of Dr. Peter Herzenberg of Vienna
11 am: Works of Art, Sculpture, Renaissance Jewellery & Bronzes
1 pm at the Gooden Street Gallery, European & Oriental Rugs, Carpets & Textiles
Wed. 4th: 11 am & 2.30 pm: Old Master Paintings

Thurs. 5th: 10.30 am & 2.30 pm: Musical Instruments

Fri. 6th: 11 am 18th & 19th Century English Furniture
Fam Sale Service, Conduit Street Gallery
Wed. 4th: 11 am & 2 pm: Oriental Ceramics & Works of Art, English & Foreign Silver, Plated & Allied Wares, Porcelain Miniatures & Objects of Vertu
Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms or by post from the Catalogue Department, Sotheby's Park Lane & Co., 87-89, Mark Lane, London, EC3A 7DF

Pulborough, West Sussex PO20 1AJ Tel: (07982) 3831

Tues. 3rd: 10.30 am: Antique & Modern Furniture, Clocks, Metalwork
Wed. 4th: 10.30 am & 2 pm: Paintings, Coins & Cigarette Cards
Thurs. 5th: 10.30 am & 2 pm: Silver & Jewellery
Fri. 6th: 10.30 am: English & European Ceramics & Glass
For information on all overseas sales please telephone John Preece (01) 493 8080 Ext. 301

Opportunities to sell at Sotheby's

If you are thinking of selling, some of our specialized sales are listed below. To allow time for the worldwide distribution of our catalogues, items should reach us before the closing dates mentioned. If you have an item that you wish to include in these or any other sales please telephone (01) 493 8080 Ext. 123 for details.

Subject	Venue	Closing date for entry	Enquiries (01) 493 8080	Sale date
Islamic Carpets & Works of Art	London	16th May	Jack Frances	18th July
Japanese Works of Art & Prints	London	16th May	Neil Derry/Aki Sham	18th July
Coins	London	17th May	Michael Norton	19th July
English Furniture	London	18th May	Graham Child	23rd July
Glass	London	21st May	Perran Wood	23rd July
Illustrated Books	London	21st May	Roy Davids	23rd July
European Porcelain	London	22nd May	David Bame	24th July

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

How to add up the productivity sums

Sometimes it seems there is no good news in economics. Manufacturers are cheerful: the Chancellor appears to face years of pleasurable tax cutting; yet still the problems pile up. Take, for example, the curious tale of British productivity.

For years sluggish productivity topped the list of symptoms of the "British disease". Then came a miracle: manufacturing productivity shot up by more than 5 per cent a year between 1980 and 1983. But now this improvement tops the Jeremiahs' chart, as a reason why Britain's unemployment goes on and on rising.

The upturn in British output began a whole three years ago, in early 1981. Yet, since then, registered unemployment has risen by 800,000. This statistical series appeared to level off in 1983. But the stockbroking firm Phillips & Drew has produced a series which allows for the effect of training schemes and the pre-election deletions from official statistics, and this shows only a brief pause last summer.

Up to, say, the middle of last year, there were some easy explanations. The slump was particularly deep, the recovery painfully slow. Employment could be expected to lag far behind. The upturn was strongest in the oil industry, which employs relatively few people. In the autumn of 1981, production in the rest of the economy actually fell back again for a while.

By last summer, the labour market was looking brighter. Steering clear of the fog surrounding the dole statistics, the figures for vacancies were a welcome beacon. They rose by an average 8 per cent a month from July to September. Employment in the service industries was picking up, even though manufacturing jobs were still disappearing. In the half-year to last September, the total number of jobs in the economy as a whole rose about 80,000.

Then unemployment began to rise again, with a surge at the turn of the year. And the number of vacancies began to fall. But even now there are some soothing short-term explanations. During 1983, the labour force was probably swollen by entrants - people who had given up looking for work during the previous three years. The fall in the number of vacancies notified to job centres may have come about as places were filled on the Government's community programme for unemployed adults. Incorrect seasonal adjustment is another favourite whipping-boy. During midsummer and midwinter, there are new cohorts of school-leavers; as some of these find jobs, they displace older workers, who swell the adjusted adults-only unemployment figure watched by analysts. In support of this theory, the rise in the adjusted total has begun to slow down again, from nearly 30,000 a month in January and February to only 11,000 in March.

But there was reason to hope for more than cold comfort this winter. The recovery has been broadening out, as the figures have demonstrated for some months. Maybe, we have only to be patient a little longer: the new trends survey published today by the Confederation of British Industry shows manufacturers to be more hopeful of expansion by the summer than they have been for eight years. Here, however, we come back to the productivity puzzle.

Until the middle of last year, it was possible to be pretty dismissive of the productivity "miracle". It was the response (mainly through closures) to the severe pressures inflicted and self-inflicted, of 1979-81. As the least efficient firms shut up shop, there was an apparent increase in average productivity. Even where these pressures forced change in manning practices, the vice has now been undone. By 1983, productivity was expected to slow down.

Instead, at the end of the year, the Manpower Services Commission noted a new surge. And the CBI today predicts a further rise in manufacturing productivity equal to the average of the past three years: of 5 per cent this year and next.

This is not at all improbable. There is clearly some - goodness knows how much - usable idle capacity, and the improvement in company profits has coincided with a new acceleration in technological change, so the means are there for a re-equipment boom. And there has been enough of a change in work practices to yield some of the productivity gains denied to the companies that invested in the 1970s. So the real productivity "miracle" may be only just beginning.

But what will this do to unemployment? A report published today by Mr John McGregor, for Capel Cure Myers, draws on the considerable research carried out at Warwick University. He starts by forecasting the labour force: perhaps a million more potential workers by 1990, or as few as 600,000 if more discouraged workers drop out. Warwick employment forecasts for each important industry, based on economic growth of about 2 per cent a year, suggests only 400,000 more jobs - and, therefore, a rise in unemployment.

Only a marginally less grim logic can be extracted from the Treasury's official forecasts, enlightened by evidence from the Chancellor and others to the Treasury Select Committee of MPs this past week. His strategy rests on slightly higher growth - 2½ per cent on average, for the four years after 1984. This is the average for two economies, oil and non-oil. Since North Sea oil production is expected to ebb after this year, the average conceals a rise in non-oil output of 2½ per cent a year.

Now the labour force is expected to grow - say, by ½ per cent a year. So the Chancellor's growth forecast is enough only to dent unemployment if productivity grows by less than 2 per cent a year. The Treasury appears to be assuming 1½ per cent. That may be high by the dreadful standards of the 1970s, but it is well below the 3 per cent recorded for the whole economy over the past year.

But this is to turn cause and effect around. The rate of growth is not God-given, to be divided between employment and productivity regardless of cost. Without productivity there may be no growth. Even after five years of rising unemployment, the Government has failed to halt the rise in real wages. So Britain's competitiveness can only be maintained against countries who have halted the rise in labour costs either by further rapid rises in productivity or by a fall in the exchange rate (which those Labour politicians who advocate it should remember is just another way of cutting real wages).

If the productivity miracle is sustained, this would mean that British companies are now capable of expanding rapidly without running into inflationary bottlenecks. That is unalloyed good news, and in Keynesian or monetarist language, its consequence is clear. It should mean, not fewer jobs for a fixed rate of growth, but faster growth without inflation - and that is what a government of either economic complexion should aim at.

There is more than a hint, in the Chancellor's Budget decisions, that he does think there has been such a step-change in British potential. Certainly such figures as have appeared since the Budget tend to confirm the view that there is greater risk of an endless dole queue than an upsurge in inflation. It is a narrow gap between Scylla and Charybdis; but productivity can help only to give the economy steerage way.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

CU pressed for statement after 28% rise in shares

By Our City Staff

Commercial Union will be pressed to issue a statement early this week following a 28 per cent rise in its share price in two days last week and weekend speculation, that the insurance group is about to sell off its loss-making American arm.

Mr Sandy Marshall, CU's chairman, said yesterday: "I can't rule anything out and I am not prepared to comment on speculation. We will make a statement if we feel it is appropriate and if it is felt that a false market may be created in our shares." The company is due to hold its annual shareholders' meeting in a fortnight's time.

On Thursday and Friday

CU's share price jumped from 185p to 236p before settling to 226p. It is estimated that 12 million shares changed hands, and that in the past three months 10 per cent of the company's shares have been registered in new names.

Although CU has just 1.5 per cent share of the overall US market in property and casualty insurance, in 1983 the US operations paid out 24 per cent more on claims and expenses than it took in premiums, with the ratio almost doubling to 41 per cent in the last quarter.

Two American groups have been mentioned as possible buyers: American International Group and Actina Life &

Casualty. Sources in the insurance sector suggest they may form a joint venture to pay £400m, equal to £1 per CU share, for the American business.

CU's underwriting losses in America over the last 10 years now total more than £660m, £529m of which have been incurred in the last three years. Last year's result - a loss of £245.4m - was the worst single year so far, and compares with £198m in 1982.

The US results have been largely responsible for CU's overall underwriting losses rising from £57.3m in 1980 to £314.2m last year. The losses cancelled out CU's investment

income and life business profits last year, resulting in the group's first operating loss since 1975.

The company will have to dig into its reserves and retained profits to the tune of £26.7m in order to pay the unchanged dividend to shareholders of 11.8p a share which it is proposing.

A demerger of the US operation would leave a highly rated and expanding life assurance business and a profitable UK and Europe non-life activities. Last month the group announced a 1983 pretax profit of £3.3m, down from £21.5m in 1982. Total life funds rose by £230m during the year to £3.28 billion.

Institutions set to buy into SE firms

By Philip Robleson

Proposals to allow Britain's top 10 financial institutions to take 2 to 5 per cent of a Stock Exchange firm are being put together by Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank. A number of discussions are at an advanced stage and an announcement of the first shareholding group could be made within the next two months.

Outside ownership of Stock Exchange firms is a key issue which will shape the future trading of the securities markets as British firms reorganize traditional City boundaries to enable them to compete for international trade against the already experienced and well-capitalized big American banks.

Stock Exchange firms need big injections of capital to increase their size which, for some, has been guaranteed by allowing merchant banks, British commercial banks, American commercial banks and mining companies to buy a 29.9 per cent stake in them.

The problem of a firm linking with one or other British financial institution has so far been the likelihood of losing all the buying and selling business from institutions that are not shareholders.

Lazard says its scheme is designed for those firms that do not want to sell out 29.9 per cent in one lump but need additional capital and desire to remain independent. Allowing, say 10 institutions, to take 3 per cent of one firm would, the bank argues, surmount any problems of loss of business.

Since last November, Lazard has spoken to about two dozen of the top broking and jobbing houses (there are still 26 of the major firms whose plans remain a secret) of which about 10 have wanted to know more.

The proposals have the backing of the Bank of England and are being seen as building a strong second-tier of securities houses backed with British money.

The Bank has already indicated that it wants a frontline of British houses to take on the American companies. S. G. Warburg, National Westminster, Barclays Bank and Midland now have the basis to develop as significant forces. The current maximum shareholding for a single outside shareholder is 29.9 per cent. Mr Philip Wilkinson, chief executive of National Westminster Bank, which plans a link with stockbroker Biscuit, Bishop, thinks this will rise to 49.9 per cent by this autumn and to 100 per cent next year.

Go-ahead for sale of Scottish airfields

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

The Government has told the Civil Aviation Authority to press ahead with plans to sell eight publicly owned aerodromes in remote parts of the Scottish islands and highlands.

All but one of the eight make losses. They are supported by government grants totalling more than £3m a year in recognition of their vital importance as communication links with the rest of Scotland.

The CAA was first asked by the Government to investigate the possibility of privatizing the aerodromes a year ago. After studying the authority's report for nine months, the Department of Transport has now told the authority to press ahead.

The CAA is not opposed to the sale, but is concerned at the lack of private sector interest in the aerodromes, the smallest of which - on the island of Tiree - handles only 4,000 passengers a year.

It is asking the Government to clarify whether it is allowed to offer the aerodromes to local authorities as well.

Initial reaction from the private sector has been "insubstantial", he adds. An alternative solution being studied by MPs on the House of Commons Select Committee on Transport is to combine the CAA's eight Scottish aerodromes with the British Airports Authority's four Scottish airports.

This new grouping could then



be sold off either on its own or as part of the general privatization planned for the British Airports Authority

The eight CAA aerodromes are at Barra, Benbecula, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Islay, Tiree, Wick, and Wick. The only one which made a profit last year was Barra which is in the Shetlands which acts as a base for the oil industry's operations in the North Sea.

Losses at the other seven airfields totalled £2.1m before interest payments, and the CAA told MPs last month "the aerodromes as a whole are likely to continue to operate at a loss". Annual losses ranged from £107,000 at Tiree to £484,000 at Barra.

Equipment leasing rates slide

By William Kay
City Editor

Equipment leasing rates have been pared to the bone since the Budget spelled the end of first-year capital allowances. The banks, faced with the loss of the best tax shelter they ever had, have been fighting for every piece of cover they can find.

"It would be more accurate to say that rates have been butchered", Mr Alan Outten, of Forward Trust, Midland Bank's leasing offshoot, said.

Based on quarterly payments over a five-year period, rates have come down from a pre-Budget £38 per £1,000 of equipment to as low as £22 in some cases.

When it is considered that such leases involve only 20 repayments, a rate of £50 per £1,000 would return precisely £1,000 to the lessor by the end of the period, or precisely breakeven before the tax effect. But any allowance for risk or notional interest would put rates at these levels into the red.

There has been particular pressure on the banks to sign deals up before the end of March, so that they could be set against 1983-84 corporation tax. But there will still be a major incentive to pack as many deals as possible into each successive year until April 1986, when the capital allowances are completely replaced by 25 per cent annual writing-down allowances.

State backing for CCA

By Ian Griffiths

The Government will press ahead with its policy of encouraging nationalized industries to prepare their financial accounts on a current cost accounting basis even though the accounting standard SSAP 16, which sets out the principles of preparation, is to be substantially revised.

The Accounting Standards Committee approved last week a statement of intent to revise SSAP 16, but the new standard will specifically exclude nationalized industries from its

scope. Under the revised accounting rules public listed companies will be obliged to disclose information about the impact of inflation on their results in a note to the accounts rather than as a separate set of financial statements.

British Gas, the Electricity Council, and the Post Office are among the nationalized industries which prepare their main accounts on the basis of SSAP 16, but its revision will not alter their approach.

Credit data out today

This week is the start of the April reporting cycle for British economic data. Today sees news on credit data for February; the January figure was £965m, slightly below December's record of £978m.

The credit figures will reflect retail trends during February and provisional estimates, published early in March, showed volume sales up from January's 107.7 to 108.9, encouraging but still below the best levels seen in the fourth quarter last year (110).

Today sees publication of the final figures for retail sales in February. Tomorrow the official reserves for March come out, as well as capital issues and redemptions for March, and February housing starts and completions.

Reserves rose by \$210m in February to just under \$18 billion, while the underlying improvements were \$40m.

On Wednesday the Department of Energy produces advance energy statistics for February.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: TSB, Gilt Fund, Finales: Bunt, Conder International, Molins, Phoenix Assurance, Wood (Arthur) & Sons (Longport).

TOMORROW - Interims: AA Finance, Bruntons (Musselburgh) (second interim) New Court Trust, TSB-Taleford, South West, Finales: Brammer, Chasties International, Coplex, Hartons, Keep Trust, Pritchard Services, Riley Leisure, Rotalek.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: A Beckman, London Provincial Shop Centres, Finales: Associated Book Publishers, Astbury & Madeley, Biomechanics International, BR Homhair, Guardian Royal Exchange Association, Higgs and Higgs, Laidlaw, Mobel, Queens Moat Houses, Spirax-Sarco, Sun Alliance and London Insurance.

THURSDAY - Interims: Druck Holdings, LWT Holdings, Photo-Metropolitan Property, Finales: Interstar Building and Construction Group, Finlay Packaging, North British Canadian Investment, Yorkshire Chemicals.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 11125.2 down 8.8
FT Index: 877.0 down 14.5
FT 100 Index: 83.19 up 0.07
FT All Share: 524.20 down 3.13
Bargains: 26,420
Databank USM Leaders
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1164.89, up 10.05
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 1014.38 down 147.27
Amsterdam: 170.7

CURRENCIES

Change on week
Sterling
\$1.4425 up 5 pts
DM 80.1 down 0.3
Index 3.7375 down 0.04
SFF 11.5050 down 0.13
Yen 324.0 down 0.5
Dollar
Index 126.3 down 0.9
DM 2.5880 down 0.0345
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 10.5964
SDR 0.735286

NEWS IN BRIEF

£9bn Saudi deficit forecast

Saudi Arabia is estimating a budget deficit of 4.9 billion Saudi Riyals (£9 billion) for the fiscal year starting today.

This compares with a deficit of 3.5 billion riyals (£6.9 billion) in the fiscal year which ended yesterday, exactly in line with last year's forecast, but at a substantially lower level of revenues and expenditure than estimated.

The budget estimates revenues for the next fiscal year at 241 billion riyals (£41.9 billion) and spending at 269 billion (£50.9 billion) 17 per cent higher than expenditure in the year just ended.

British Airways starts a new life this week as a public limited company. The change from a nationalized industry represents another step on the road towards the airline's privatization next year.

Pension funds have been given the first indication of a recommended form and content for annual accounts, in an exposure draft published today by the Accounting Standards Committee, which also says that pension scheme investments should be included in the accounts at market value.

Proposals by the Office of Fair Trading to introduce a "General Duty to Trade Fairly" are cumbersome, expensive and likely to cause damaging longer-run economic effects the Institute of Directors says.

First Leisure expected at a premium

Strong demand is expected from investors seeking a stake in Lord Delfont's First Leisure Corporation which is seeking a Stock Exchange listing, and whose prospectus is out today.

The group is raising £10m after expenses from the issue of six million new shares at 180p each. The fresh cash will leave the group virtually unencumbered,

with asset backing of 156p a share, the ability to raise £20m in loans and a market capitalization at the issue price of £44.1m.

The stock market expects a hefty premium on the shares in initial trading and is also anticipating that Lord Delfont may shortly announce a significant deal which could mean the

issue of other new shares before long.

Profits have come from £3.6m to £6.3m over the past five years, mainly from the piers and entertainments section headed by Mr James Naylor, and the theatre restaurants, dancing and sports division headed by Mr John Contain.

AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

Credit boom points to 10% inflation

The furious pace of growth in bank reserves emanating from the Federal Reserve has continued, threatening 8 per cent inflation by late 1984 and 10 per cent during 1985.

Meanwhile, it is apparent that the limiting factor on the present recovery in the US economy is not capacity, no labour but financial capital. With the Federal Reserve Government taking 6 per cent of GNP out of the nation's savings this year, the US domestic savings rate, after depreciation charges, is close to zero.

The major sources of credit supplies to finance the current expansion have been the Federal Reserve and the foreign sector.

But looking ahead, the Federal Reserve must continue to supply large quantities of new reserves during the 1984 election year only to face a need, raised by escalating inflation, to call a halt in 1985. And it is already clear that the foreign sector is more and more

unwilling to provide capital to the US.

This unwillingness is the net result of foreign concern about rising inflation and in America and domestic American concern about the dollar, leading American money managers to commit more and more domestic American funds to foreign markets.

Mr Robert Sinche, chief economist at Bear Stearns, commented last week: "In response to one of the most stimulative monetary expansions on record, private-sector credit usage has risen more rapidly in this recovery than in any recovery in the last 30 years."

"Since its trough in the third quarter of 1982, the rate of credit usage by the household sector has nearly tripled while the strong financial surpluses of the corporate sector have disappeared."

"In fact, the amount of credit used by private, domestic, non-financial sectors of the economy

to generate each dollar of nominal GMP has been this high in only 22 of the 120 quarters since 1954.

Instead of reducing credit dependence in the current recovery, the private sector is using as much credit at the end of the first year of expansion as is usually needed in the third year of an inflationary expansion."

Thus, the barrier into which the US is running is not an orthodox one of labour shortages, on physical capacity in factories. The US is not generating sufficient savings to permit a sustained economic expansion. A recovery quickly translates into a very rapid growth of credit usage and then, after an interlude during which the Central Bank attempts to hold down interest rates by excessive reserve creation, into high interest rates and a ballooning of inflationary expectations.

This is where the US finds

itself. The Federal Reserve attempted for many months in late 1983 and early 1984 to hold the federal funds rate at ½ per cent. This policy had to be abandoned a couple of weeks ago, when, in conjunction with a rise in the prime rate, the federal funds rate was allowed to go above 10 per cent.

The Fed may now attempt to hold the funds rate at around 10 per cent to 10½ per cent. In view of the rapid escalation of credit demand from the private sector and the big reduction that has already taken place in the household sector's net investment position, such constraint on interest rates will only be sustainable by means of continued rapid growth in banks' reserves.

While the US Government subsidizes "excess consumption" through the social welfare system, it is hard to see how the US will ever be able to achieve sustained economic growth.

Abridged Particulars

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for all of the Ordinary Shares of First Leisure Corporation PLC, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

These abridged particulars do not constitute an invitation to purchase shares.



(Registered in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1980. No. 1594324)

Offer for Sale by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited

of 6,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at a price of 180p per share, payable in full on application.

Share Capital

Authorised

£33,000,000

Issued and now being issued fully paid

£24,500,000

in Ordinary Shares of £1 each

First Leisure Corporation PLC and its subsidiaries are engaged in leisure activities within the United Kingdom including the operation of theatre restaurants, discotheques, squash clubs and bowling centres, holiday sites, a marina, piers, entertainment and leisure centres, amusement arcades and theatres and the presentation of live shows.

The Application List for the Ordinary Shares now being offered for sale will open at 10.00 am on Thursday 5th April, 1984 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Copies of the Offer for Sale (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) with Application Forms, will be available from:-

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street,
London EC2P 2AJ

Cazenove & Co.
12 Tokenhouse Yard,
London EC2R 7AN

from the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC:-

New Issues Department,
2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD

80 George Street,
Edinburgh EH2 3DZ

and from the following branches of Hill Samuel & Co. Limited:-

71 New Street,
Birmingham B2 4DU

19 St. James's Square,
London SW1Y 4JQ

7 Booth Street,
Manchester M2 4AE

15 Clare Street,
Bristol BS1 1XO

39 Wigmore Street,
London W1H 0AL

2 St. Vincent Place,
Glasgow G1 2DT

This Offer for Sale is being advertised in full, with an Application Form, in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph on Monday 2nd April, 1984.

INDICES	
FTSE 100	83.19 (83.12)
FTSE 250	86.75 (86.81)
FTSE 350	87.70 (88.15)
FTSE 450	734.7 (656.0)
FTSE 550	4.36% (4.28%)
FTSE 650	9.80% (9.48%)
FTSE 750	12.28 (12.00)

Interest rates holding firm... for the moment

One of the current underlying strengths of the gilt-edged market is that few participants expect any domestic shocks to rock the boat. Their major concerns centre on external developments such as rising US interest rates, the implications of increased tensions in the Middle East and the liquidity crisis which still haunts the world's banking system. There are, however, two domestic issues which are beginning to be viewed warily. The first is accelerating wage inflation. The second is whether British monetary policy has been over-relaxed.

I reviewed the first threat in an article in this column four weeks ago. The conclusion then was that any acceleration in wage inflation, indeed inflation generally, will be relatively modest this year. If there are to be inflation problems they seem more likely to be in 1985 not this year. The Budget and events of recent weeks do not provide any reason to alter this conclusion.

The other area of concern, which has been the subject of much post-Budget discussion, centres on domestic monetary policy. Has it been over-relaxed? Will the next change in policy be to raise interest rates rather than reduce them further? For some the source of this concern is the simple extrapolation that "short-term interest rates usually begin to rise at this stage of the economic cycle". Others expect an acceleration in company and personal borrowings; the former stimulated by an acceleration of capital spending, the latter by further increases in real incomes. The implied increase in the demand for credit relative to the supply of savings would be expected to put upward pressures on interest rates.

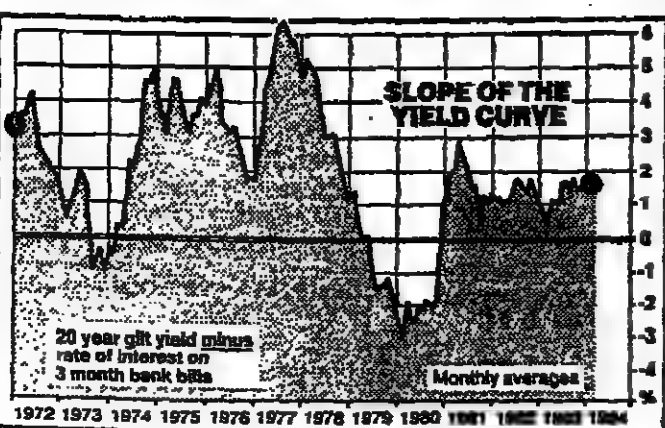
Credit demand pressure

Our view is that credit demands in total are not yet threatening to put upward pressures on interest rates. They could do later in the year if corporate demands for external finance gather momentum. But even then the risks do not appear to be great. The corporate sector's cash surplus is still very large. True, the Budget will encourage capital spending to be brought forward and this will reduce this cash surplus perhaps rapidly. But it is equally likely that stock/output ratios will be reduced. They are already very high and the abolition of stock appreciation relief will provide a ceiling to any stockbuilding. The relatively low level of industrial disputes also reduces the need for any strategic stockpiling in contrast to the 1970s. The net increase in company borrowings from the banking system this year should therefore be modest by comparison with earlier cycles.

The greater threat, as we see it, is that the market will perceive British monetary policy as being at or near the limits of relaxation which are consistent with a low inflation environment. Once markets fear that policy has been over-relaxed they will begin to discount the inevitable tightening. Gilt yields then rise to reflect the expected increases in interest rates.

How can we assess whether monetary policy has been over-relaxed? Reference to the existing money supply or interest rate data is an unsatisfactory solution. A substantial

Michael Hughes



degree of financial innovation is distorting the money supply by making it much more sensitive to interest rate changes. The level of nominal interest rates, on the other hand, is also a very loose guide because it does not take into account expectations of future inflation and the effects of taxation. Index-linked stocks do facilitate a measure of long-term inflationary expectations but they do not provide a view of the anticipated inflation rate over the short-term. Consequently, it is extremely difficult to measure real short-term interest rates.

Monetary policy evidence

One alternative measure of monetary policy which gets around these problems is the interest rate yield curve measured by the difference between 20-year gilt yields and three-month interest rates. This provides a useful measure of the relative tightness or otherwise of monetary policy. When short-term interest rates rise significantly above the long-term bond yield, money can be said to be tight. At such a level the cost of money is well above the long-run expected rate of inflation as embodied in the bond yield. If such an inverted yield is sustained it will eventually be realized that increased interest costs cannot necessarily be passed on in the future. Cost-cutting programmes emerge and demand weakens. The effects of a tight monetary policy begin to come through via-reduced demand. In turn, inflationary pressures are also reduced.

Balance of payments

The problem with a relaxed monetary policy as reflected in easy credit conditions and a positive yield curve, is that it facilitates increases in inflationary demands. When demand expands beyond a certain point it becomes reflected in price changes or a balance of payments deterioration and not in a real increase in output. The balance of payments trend and/or changes in the exchange rate therefore provide useful cross checks to this method of assessing monetary policy.

Two other points should be noted. First, this long minus short yield difference tends to lead money supply developments. Thus, an increase in long rates relative to short rates usually signals an increase in the demand for money in the near future. Second, this way of defining monetary policy probably overstates the degree of tight money since short rates

USM REVIEW

Shopfitter and meat group add to diversify

The steady flow of companies to the Unlisted Securities Market shows no sign of diminishing, with two due to make their debut today.

Havlock Europa and Meadow Farm Produce are located in such diverse fields as shopfitting and meat wholesaling. Their arrival will lift the number of USM-traded companies to 230 compared with the 12 recruited for the market's launch in November 1980.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, has placed 2,675,000 shares of Havlock Europa at 75p a share. Cape Cane Myers, the stockbroker, is behind the Meadow Farm launch. It has placed 1,540,000 shares at 130p each. Havlock is an interesting spin-off from Mackays Stores, a privately owned fashion shops chain from north of the border. After the business Mackays retained 49 per cent of the shopfitting business and says it has no intention of selling its shareholding. However, the presence of such a large shareholder must encourage takeover speculation. After all, Mackays has sold 51 per cent of Havlock; why not the rest of the capital if the price is rewarding?

Samuel Montagu is placing 45 per cent of the equity. Directors account for the remaining 6 per cent.

The USM price table is on facing page

The shopfitting business is a prime example of an offspring outgrowing its corporate parent. Havlock was started in 1972 as a division of Mackays by two of its present directors, Mr Barry Ward (managing), and Mr Alan Latham (commercial).

Initially, Mackays represented all its work. Two years later the company took on shopfitting for other retail chains. Today its customers include House of Fraser, Dixons, British Shoe Corporation and W. H. Smith.

Mackays, which has around 140 shops and is busy upgrading its branches from price-conscious outlets to more relaxed family fashion stores, will collect £1.6m from the share sale.

Havlock expects to make pre-tax profits of at least £450,000 in the year ending mid-April. This would compare with £335,000 in the previous year. On the forecast tax charge the shares were placed at 17.7 times prospective earnings.

Meadow Farm has grown fat on the spread of pub steak bars. It was once a small chain of butcher's shops run by the present managing director, Mr Ron Randall. He started supplying meat to catering outlets, and eight years ago decided that wholesaling offered better rewards than retailing. The shops were sold and Mr Randall moved to a leased factory at Milton Keynes.

Mr Randall, aged 36, and other directors have sold 1,040,000 shares. The rest were new shares. All told, 34 per cent of the company was placed.

Meadow Farm has made remarkable progress but some investors may worry about its high degree of exposure to just a handful of customers.

The company's projects have grown dramatically in the past year. In the year to last April the pre-tax figure was £282,000; for the year ended on Friday a £625,000 profit is forecast.

At 130p Meadow Farm shares have been placed at 10.5 times earnings.

ORDINARY SHARES

Where to sink your funds in the N Sea

Many of these companies started with nothing but a few North Sea blocks and the faith and funds of the founding shareholders. By making acquisitions and finding number of them now find themselves with most of the ingredients necessary to make them viable in their own right - namely acreage, oil reserves, production, cash flow and staff.

However, they are still small enough to be transformed by the results of a single well. How does the investor choose from the plethora of shares available those which will make money for him?

One useful starting point is to look at the asset values of a group of companies and compare these with the price. In the accompanying table we have used a consistent method to arrive at the asset values to enable comparisons to be made. To calculate the asset value, we estimate the future cashflows from its oil discoveries and discount these to give a present value of oil in the ground.

Subjective judgment

These are not in any sense to be regarded as absolute values, that is to say what the company is "worth". We have not, for example, included acreage for the very good reason that the valuation of acreage has an element of subjective judgment associated with it - what may look a good prospect to one group may be of no interest to another. Clearly, the more good acreage a company has the better.

But it is impossible, except in the broadest sense, to judge the worth of undrilled acreage. If there is oil there in commercial quantities it can be worth a lot in relation to the size of these companies. If there is no oil, or gas, then it is worth nothing. In comparing the asset value with the price, two observations can be made immediately - in every case the share price is at a premium to assets, and some shares stand at a larger premium than others.

There are many reasons why share prices in general could be above the asset value, since there are advantages in owning shares compared with having a direct interest in the underlying assets. In particular, shares are much more readily marketable. In addition, the liability of the shareholder is limited to the value of the shares. The owner of the asset could be involved in theoretically unlimited expenditure on developments.

Finally, the shareholder can diversify his risk effortlessly by owning several different shares. It has often proved difficult for some small companies to obtain a good spread of interests.

Lack of money

These arguments help to explain why the exploration companies' share prices may in general be above asset values. What it does not explain is why some are at relatively greater premiums than others. Our

which makes an oil discovery such as LASMO, Tricentrol or Saxon.

For these companies, when luck has played a significant role, the management's job is only just beginning. It has to find the means to pay for what is likely to be a very expensive development in relation to the resources of the company.

The management must also develop a strategy to use the profits from its first development of fund future growth. Oil is, after all, a wasting asset and its reserves must be replaced to prevent earnings from declining after a few years. It is not necessary to find oil to be successful oil company. Many companies such as Charterhouse and Clyde have grown by acquisitions.

Short-term influence

Although we have not included exploration acreage in our asset values, this is, together with drilling plans, an important determinant of the share price. Companies with active drilling programmes will attract the interest of shareholders and prices can move dramatically, up or down on the basis of well results.

Drilling activity is likely to be a short term influence on the share price. Many of these companies have such small market capitalizations that a small percentage interest in a small find can make a big difference to them. Similarly, a dry hole can leave a big gap in their meagre resources. Another short-term influence will be merger activity. From time to time these shares are subject to bid speculation. Generally speaking, small quoted oil companies tend to look expensive to predators and they can often buy assets more cheaply by acquiring them direct.

In the last analysis, the serious investor is backing management. The risks in the oil business, and especially among the smaller exploration stocks are enormous, but so are the rewards. Good fortune in finding oil is not essential, although it certainly helps. But good management, by creating opportunities, will create its own good fortune and in so doing will make money for the shareholders.

The author is a research partner of stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie and Co.

Carol Ferguson

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSET VALUES

Company	Price (p)	Asset value range (p/shares)	Premium/Discount to Asset value %
Carlisle	220	138-187	59-18
Charterhall	75	49-62	55-23
Charterhouse	142	87-125	63-14
Clyde	136	84-95	62-43
Floyd	91	43-67	112-36
Gold	116	67-78	73-58
Premier	54	42-46	30-18
Saxon	295	231-279	29-6
Sovereign	289	248-343	17-14

It may be argued from the first observation that these shares are all too expensive. This is not necessarily so, especially as the asset values are only one component in the price.

There are many reasons why share prices in general could be above the asset value, since there are advantages in owning shares compared with having a direct interest in the underlying assets. In particular, shares are much more readily marketable. In addition, the liability of the shareholder is limited to the value of the shares. The owner of the asset could be involved in theoretically unlimited expenditure on developments.

Finally, the shareholder can diversify his risk effortlessly by owning several different shares. It has often proved difficult for some small companies to obtain a good spread of interests.

Management can be judged only by its record, and many of these companies have now been in existence long enough for a judgment to be made about the success or failure of the management.

Growth of the asset base is one measure of management's success. This can be achieved by being a partner in a group

Just the job for Britain

IBM's record investment in Britain in 1983

Sir Edwin Nixon CBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of IBM United Kingdom Holdings Limited, has announced that the group turnover for 1983 was £1677 million, an increase of 35% over the previous year.

Highlights from Sir Edwin's report:*

STRONG DEMAND
"The high demand for our products continued right across the range from our largest systems to the Personal Computer."

Revenue from our UK customers rose 30% over the previous year.

EXPORTS UP
Our two British factories increased their exports to countries in the rest of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Total exports from the UK rose by 43% to £745 million.

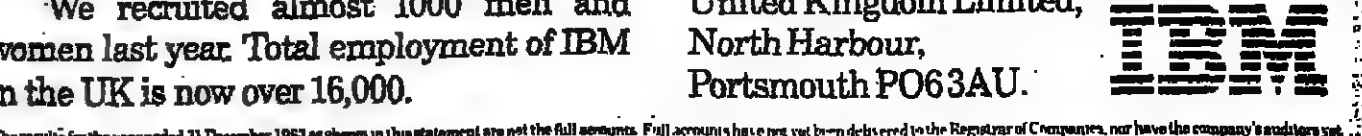
	1983	1982	Increase
Turnover	£m 1677	£m 1240	35
Profit before Tax	255	225	13
Profit after Tax	147	104	41
Capital Expenditure	146	119	23

MORE JOBS
We recruited almost 1000 men and women last year. Total employment of IBM in the UK is now over 16,000.

As part of its programme of building bridges between industry and education, IBM launched the IBM Institute.

The first project is at Cambridge University, working with the Department of Engineering to explore new ways of using information technology in curriculum development.

For a copy of IBM UK's Annual Review, which will be available in late April, write to the Corporate Promotion Manager, IBM United Kingdom Limited, North Harbour, Portsmouth PO63AU.



Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/4%
Barclays	8 1/4%
BCCI	8 1/4%
Citibank	8 1/4%
Consolidated Creds	8 1/4%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	8 1/4%
Nat Westminster	8 1/4%
TSB	8 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/4%

* Today deposits on terms of tender £10,000, 90% £50,000 up to £250,000, 95% £250,000 and over, 7 1/4%.

Secretary at House of Fraser

House of Fraser: Mr D. K. Milligan has retired as company secretary but he will remain a director in a non-executive capacity. Mr B. S. Hodge becomes the new company secretary. Mr L. F. Drewitt has been appointed joint managing director of Harrods. Mr A. Clark has been made assistant managing director of Harrods. Mr P. Hughes and Mr P. Martin have joined the board of A.C. Illum A/S in Copenhagen. Mr B. J. Gladwin has been appointed controller of management services throughout the House of Fraser Group.

APPOINTMENTS

Royds Advertising Group: Mr Bill Bowman has succeeded Mr Nicholas Royds as chairman. Arthur Guinness and Sons: Mr David J. H. Slater becomes director of corporate development from July 1. Standard Chartered Bank: Mr Stuart S. Tarrant has been appointed as an executive director. Costain Group: Mr Gordon R. Haworth has joined the board. Barclays Merchant Bank: Mr Michael Peterson, at present the director in charge of the

INDIRECT JOBS

IBM awarded contracts worth £215 million to its suppliers last year, 80% of which went to British companies. As a result about 10,000 further British jobs were sustained or created.

INVESTMENT

In the UK, capital investment continued at a strong rate. A major project was the occupation of the South Bank marketing centre.

A new factory unit was opened in the town of Greenock to manufacture the Personal Computer.

IBM INSTITUTE

As part of its programme of building bridges between industry and education, IBM launched the IBM Institute.

The first project is at Cambridge University, working with the Department of Engineering to explore new ways of using information technology in curriculum development.

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This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange

HAMILTON OIL CORPORATION

(Incorporated in the State of Colorado, U.S.A.)

Share Capital	
Authorised	To be issued and outstanding
100,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.25 per value	up to 75,383,572
2,000,000 shares of series A preference stock, \$1.00 per value	up to 1,118,072
1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$1.00 per value	

The shares of common stock, \$0.25 per value and the shares of series A preference stock, \$1.00 per value have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange.

Dealings in the shares will start today.

Particulars relating to Hamilton Oil Corporation are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies may be obtained during normal business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 19th April 1984 from:-

Kleinwort, Benson Limited
20 Fenchurch Street
London EC3P 3DB

Cazenove & Co.
12 Tokenhouse Yard
London EC2R 7AH

corporate services division, has been made head of the merchant banking division of Barclays Bank International in New York from June 30 to succeed Mr Nicholas Selbie, who has been appointed director in charge of the corporate services division of Barclays Merchant Bank from the same date. Mr Neil Harland, assistant director, has been appointed an executive director of Barclays Merchant Bank. Mr Joe McCann, at present attached to Barclays Bank Group central advances department and formerly managing director of Bermuda Provident Bank, has been appointed an executive director of Barclays Merchant Bank. Mr John Neilson, formerly a vice-president of American Express International Banking Corporation, and an executive director of Amex Bank, has also been made an executive director.

Association of Consortium Banks: Mr Garrett F. Bouton, managing director of Scandinavian Bank, has been elected chairman.

Boccham Group: Mr J. F. B. Hunter, Dr K. R. L. Mansford and Mr V. J. Steel have joined the board.

The Institution of Mechanical and General Technicians Engineers: Sir Monty Finniston has become president.

British Railways Board: Mr David Williams, deputy international director, has been made director of international marketing and director, Channel Tunnel, from June 1 on the retirement of the present director, Mr P. A. Kea.

* The results for the year ended 31 December 1983 as shown in this statement are not the full accounts. Full accounts have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, nor have the company's auditors yet made their report on them under the Companies Act 1987 (Section 11 Companies Act 1984).

BOXING

Pearce to undergo second brain scan

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

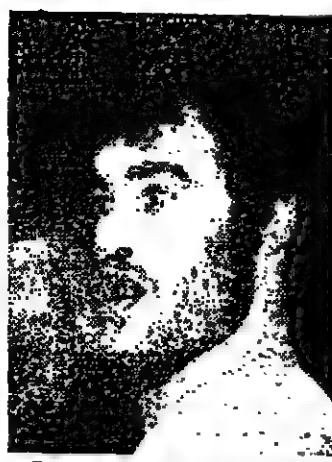
A cloud has appeared over the career of David Pearce just as he was looking brighter for the Irish heavyweight champion's challenge for the world cruiserweight title. After his severe points loss at the hands of Lucien Lopez, of France, the European heavyweight champion, at Limerick on Friday, Pearce is to be given a medical examination by a British Boxing Board of Control to see whether he has suffered any damage to his brain during the fight.

This kind of examination is done with boxes who have had a reverse and is generally not done for alarm and despondency. In Pearce's case it is different. He was badly hurt by the round in 1983 while the board checked on a head condition leading neurological experts.

It is difficult to see why Pearce could have suffered any damage on boxing, since he is usually on his feet and is usually on his feet, however, he was on the receiving end, though from a light punch.

Any damage he may have had in the past could go back to his childhood, when he found himself in the usual scrapes tough boys can get into in towns like Newport.

Even if Pearce is cleared this time by the doctors, the board may still give him to consider retirement if he takes into account the view of any experts at the ringside in images that Pearce showed that he



Pearce: likes a good scrap

did not have enough technical ability to take on world-class boxers, even crumpleweights.

Some believed that he took too much punishment. I do not feel that he was in distress at any stage of the contest. In fact, he was strong enough in the eighth to floor the champion twice. It is a pity that Pearce resorted to Victor McLaglen's Hollywood style of fighting in the later stages that made him look crude against the well-disciplined champion.

Pearce is one of those devil-may-care types who thrive on good scrapes and his performance against the Frenchman should not be used to push him into retirement. Unless something sinister is seen in a new scan, the board will have a job on its hands, because Pearce and his manager, who is No. 7 in the world cruiserweight division, has no business being in the top 10 or thinking of boxing for a world title.

Hagler praises Roldan

Las Vegas (Reuters) - Squinting through a swollen right eye, Juan Domingo Roldan, of Argentina, admitted that he knew he was beaten at the end of the third round of his bout against the undisputed world middleweight champion, Marvin Hagler, on Friday night.

Roldan, making his first attempt at the title, suffered the eye injury in the third round, struggled on until referee, Tony Perez, stopped the fight early in the tenth round of Hagler's ninth defence.

Roldan caught Hagler off balance early in the first round of the scheduled 15-round fight. He knocked him down. Hagler admitted that he was embarrassed by the knockdown, the first in his 11-year professional career.

Roldan, knowing an early knock-out was his only chance, kept the

upperhand until the third round when, he said, Hagler thumped him in the eye. Hagler said the thumping was accidental.

Hagler praised Roldan "He's a game warrior. I'm afraid I trained hard, because I had to take it to him. My strategy was to box him, but the body shots took their toll and I felt he was tiring. So I went to work."

Roldan's co-manager, Tito Toranzo, said Roldan would return to Buenos Aires today, wait until the eye healed, and then look for a bout with another Argentine before a possible rematch with Hagler.

Hagler's next opponent, probably in July, will be the Syrian-born Mustafa Hamsho, who earned a title chance by knocking out Alexis Shakhmurov, of the United States.

WBA may back Holmes fight

Las Vegas (Reuters) - The World Boxing Association (WBA) may sanction South African heavyweight Jerry Coetzee's fight against Larry Holmes in Las Vegas on June 8.

Vice-president Alberto Medoza has said the WBA would recognize the bout as a title fight if Holmes, who gave up the World Boxing Council (WBC) title last autumn

and now fights as the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion, agreed the WBA to rank him.

Medoza also said the WBA will strip its junior middleweight title from Roberto Duran of Panama, if he enters the ring against Thomas Darrin, of the United States, in the Bahamas on June 15, rather than meeting one of the WBA's top contenders.

Law Report April 2 1984

Banks entitled to prove debt in liquidation

Barclays Bank and Others v T.O.S.G. Trust Fund Ltd and Others

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kintyre, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman and Lord Templeman

[Speeches delivered March 29]

On the true construction of bonds given by the respondent banks to the appellants, the respondents claimed that the bonds were to be repaid by the banks under the bonds of the O.S.G. Trust Fund Ltd in full claims by some of the appellants' customers who had not had holidays for which they had paid entitled the banks to prove in the liquidation for the £1,268,000 to the exclusion of the appellants, the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency, to whom the customers had assigned such claims in the liquidation as they might have.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the agency from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Slade) (1984) 2 W.L.R. 491, who had reversed Mr Justice Goff's decision.

Mr Leslie Hoffmann, QC and Mr Leslie Kosmin for the agency; Mr Peter Millett, QC and Mr John Macdonnell for the banks; Mr David Oliver for the liquidators of the appellants.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the appellants had been a tour operator that had contracted to provide and accept advance payments in respect of holidays abroad. It had been a member of the Tour

Operators' Study Group, formed to solve the problems arising on the business failure of a tour operator and incorporating T.O.S.G. Trust Fund.

Clarksons could not act as an air travel organizer without a licence from the Civil Aviation Authority, which involved obtaining bonds to cover its actual and potential obligations. The respondent banks had offered to provide the requisite bonds for sums amounting in the aggregate to £2,226,000. In return, Clarksons had given the banks counter-indemnities indemnifying the banks in respect of any liabilities that they might incur under the bonds.

On August 15, 1974, Clarksons had suffered a business failure. On August 16, T.O.S.G. had required the banks to pay, and they had paid, the £2,226,000, and Clarksons had presented a winding up petition. On October 7, it had been ordered to be wound up. The banks' right to repayment from Clarksons under the indemnities had thereupon become a right to prove in the liquidation.

T.O.S.G. had disbursed £958,000 out of the monies provided by the banks to pay, and they had paid, the £2,226,000, and Clarksons had presented a winding up petition. On October 7, it had been ordered to be wound up. The banks' right to repayment from Clarksons under the indemnities had thereupon become a right to prove in the liquidation.

The appellants agency had been incorporated by the Air Travel Reserve Fund Act 1975. A fund had been created to be financed by air travel operators and supported by government loans. By section 2 (6) of the Act the fund became applicable to meet a customer's advance payments made by Clarksons' customers who had not had the holidays for which they had paid.

The banks' rights to prove in Clarksons' liquidation for the £1,268,000 depended on the true construction and effect of the bonds and indemnities. There were four

possible constructions, three of which blushed with implausibility. In his Lordship's view, on their true and simple construction, when T.O.S.G. had paid £1,000 of the bank's money to a customer who claimed against Clarksons amounting to £1,000, that customer's claim against Clarksons had been extinguished and there had become vested in the bank an indisputable claim against Clarksons for £1,000 under the indemnity. If T.O.S.G. had paid £200 to a customer whose claim was £1,000, the customer could thereafter only claim and prove for the balance of £800 and the bank could claim and prove under its indemnity for £200. By the indemnities Clarksons had agreed to repay to the banks every penny that the banks paid under the bonds and that T.O.S.G. paid to the customers.

In the event, T.O.S.G. had extinguished claims of Clarksons' customers to the extent of £1,268,000 and the banks had become entitled to prove in the liquidation for £1,268,000 under their indemnities.

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CRICKET

New Zealand finish on a winning note

New Zealand completed their five-week cricket tour of Sri Lanka on a winning note in Colombo yesterday by beating the Sri Lankans by 86 runs in the deciding game of the three-match one-day series.

Sri Lanka, chasing New Zealand's total of 201 for eight, made 44 overs, were bundled out for 115 in 38.1 overs.

On Saturday the all-rounder, Uvaisul Karim had made a stunning international debut by taking five for 26 as Sri Lanka snatched a 41-run win over New Zealand in the second match of the series at Moratuwa.

Karim, a 21-year-old medium-paced bowler, and also a Sri Lanka hockey international, sent back five of the first six New Zealand batsmen in an eight-over spell. The touring side collapsed to 116 all out in 34 overs in reply to 157 for eight in their quota of 40 overs by Sri Lanka.

Karim, who also scored 28 and was named man of the match, collected the wickets of Edgar (12), Howarth (12), Cairns (9), Martin Crowe (9) and Jeff Crowe (9).

The spinners Ranatunga, with three for 23, and De Silva polished off the tail.

Sri Lanka won after controversy midway through the innings, when the umpires, P. Vidanagamage and K. T. Francis, stopped play for bad light at 61 for five after 18 overs.

Sri Lanka's fieldsmen walked off but the New Zealand batsmen Martin Crowe and Crowe stood their ground. At the umpires went off, Howarth lay on to the field and protested, but to no avail.

After play had been stopped for 42 minutes, the Sri Lankan captain, Dilip Mendis, saved the situation by taking the field again.

Sunday NEW ZEALAND

J.G. Wright c de Silva b Ranatunga 10
B.A. Edgar b D.S. de Silva 24
J.A. Howarth c de Silva b Ranatunga 24
J.F. Crowe c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.J. Crowe b Ranatunga 13
J.D. Smith c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.H. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.C. Cairns c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.M. Crowe c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.P. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.R. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.S. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.T. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.U. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.V. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.W. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.X. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.Y. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.Z. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.A. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.B. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.C. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.D. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.E. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.F. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.G. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.H. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.I. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.J. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.K. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.L. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.M. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.N. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.O. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.P. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.Q. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
J.R. Martin c de Silva b Ranatunga 13
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University appointments

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
Appointment
of
Vice-Chancellor

The University is seeking a successor to Mr. J.B. Butterworth who will retire on 30th September, 1985 as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Persons interested in being considered for the post or wishing to suggest anyone for consideration are invited to write, in confidence, to the Pro-Chancellor, Sir Arthur Vick, c/o the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL not later than 14th May, 1984.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the Registrar.

'New blood' appointments
in Science
(including Clinical Medicine
and Mathematics)

Applications are invited for the following university lectureships tenable from 1 October 1984. It is hoped that each of these appointments will be held in conjunction with a college fellowship. Unless otherwise stated, further particulars of the university lectureships, and of the relevant college appointments, may be obtained from the head of department indicated in each case, to whom applications (ten typed copies, or one from overseas applicants) should be sent. (Separate applications are not necessary for the associated college appointments.) The closing date for receipt of applications is 7 May 1984.

CLARENDON LABORATORY:

Atomic, laser and condensed matter physics. (Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PU. Telephone Oxford (0865) 59291.)

ENGINEERING SCIENCE:

Physical Electronics. (Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PU. Telephone Oxford (0865) 59889.)

HUMAN ANATOMY:

Anatomy. (Department of Human Anatomy, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QX. Telephone Oxford (0865) 58586.)

MATHEMATICS:

Application of Differential Equations. (Chairman of the Board of the Faculty of Mathematics, Mathematical Institute, 24-29 St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LB. Telephone Oxford (0865) 54296.)

PAEDIATRICS:

Paediatrics and Infectious Diseases. (Department of Paediatrics, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9DU. Telephone Oxford (0865) 817434.)

PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY:

Computational Chemistry. (Physical Chemistry Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QZ. Telephone Oxford (0865) 53322.)

ZOOLOGY

(INCLUDING MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS): Development and Cell Biology. (Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS. Telephone Oxford (0865) 56789.)

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE
University of London

New Blood lectureships

Applications are invited from those who will be under 35 on 1 October, 1984, for posts established under the national scheme to encourage the appointment of young staff.

AVIONICS: Applicants should have experience of and a research interest in the interaction of ACT with structural dynamics or the design and simulation of complex control systems which use several microprocessors. They will also be expected to develop Undergraduate courses in Digital Control Systems and in Aircraft Sensors & Signal Processing.

EXPERIMENTAL PARTICLE PHYSICS: OMC has an active and expanding programme: future experiments include electron-positron collisions at LEP, neutrino interactions at the SNS and nuclear-nuclear polarization at LAMPF. There is a continuing programme at the proton-antiproton collider (JADE) and at LEAR (P5172). The Lecturer could join a current experiment and will be encouraged to take a major role in the development and exploitation of the OPAL detector for LEP and in shaping the future programme of the group.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: Candidates in any area of organic chemistry will be considered, but excellence and potential for achievement in the field of organic synthesis, particularly in the development of novel reagents, is the preferred field.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES: (a) **DYNAMICS** - applicants should have made significant contributions to dynamics and its applications. The group's activities include the study of regular and chaotic motion in Hamiltonian and dissipative systems, and in a wide range of applications. (b) **PURE MATHEMATICS** - the group's interests centre on algebra, especially algebraic and linear groups, homological algebra and representation theory, including integral representations. It is hoped by this appointment to strengthen the research base in representation theory, particularly as it relates to arithmetic and topology.

Salary scale (under review): £7,190-£14,125 p.a. plus £1,186 London Allowance. Application forms and further details obtainable from the Senior Personnel Officer, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS (Tel: 0835 5500), to be returned by 11 May. Forms also available from Joyce Eggleston, CEIN, or Peter Nichols, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Applicants resident abroad please send c.v. and list of publications and ask three referees to write directly to OMC.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The Registry
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
IN THE
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Registrar in the Medical School. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Medical School Registry, and will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Medical School Registry, and will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Medical School Registry.

Further particulars from the Senior Assistant Registrar, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. To whom applications must be sent by 26th April 1984.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
Temporary Lectureship in Psychology

Applications are invited for a fixed term of 1 year from 1 July 1984. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Psychology Department, and will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Psychology Department.

Further particulars from the Registrar, University of Sheffield, PO Box 377, Sheffield S10 2TN. To whom applications should be sent by 14 May 1984. Quote ref: 8623/A.

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QUEEN MARY COLLEGE
University of London

FACULTY OF LAWS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Law from 1 October, or as soon thereafter as may be arranged. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Faculty of Law, and will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Faculty of Law.

Further particulars from the Registrar, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS. To whom applications should be sent by 14 May 1984.

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university
college of
swansea

Research Assistant

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Research Assistant in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to work on a technique for the spectroscopic evaluation of laser impurities in water using time and frequency domain capacitance and conductance measurements. Both the theoretical and experimental aspects will be developed to the point of producing a prototype instrument.

The appointment, which will be for one year from the nearest date that can be arranged, will be on a scale up to £7,630 per annum, together with US-SJSDPS benefits.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, to which office they should be returned by Friday, April 27, 1984.

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Casing the administrative joint

Helen Steadman looks
at opportunities
in the Civil Service

Despite the government's policy of reducing the overall size of the Civil Service, there is still a steady recruitment of graduates and school leavers or older entrants with two A levels as executive officers. About 2,300 such posts were offered to external applications in 1983/84, and in the coming year this figure is expected to rise slightly.

Executive officers shoulder most of the day-to-day work of putting government policy into practice. They work in all the 60-odd Civil Service departments, in regional, local and Whitehall offices. The main employers are the big departments such as the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, Health and Social Security, Employment, the Ministry of Defence and The Lord Chancellor's Department (which administers the courts). There are, however, small and lesser-known bodies, such as the Nature Conservancy Council or the Registry of Friendly Societies, which also need their complement of staff.

A variety of different jobs is open to the executive officer. Casework, staff management, administration, finance and policy are the principal areas, but a particular job may involve a combination of elements from more than one of them. Additionally, there are specialist posts, such as collector of taxes, or immigration officer.

Work in individual cases is an important part of many executive officer jobs, and it can involve contact with a range and variety of people.

How would you like to invest £3,000 in setting up a new business and move into profit within two months? Two young men from Hampshire have just pulled off this coup, and their achievement is all the more remarkable because both are still in their teens.

They are Peter Stevens, 19, and his friend Alan Lloyd, 17, who is in his last year at sixth form college.

Their business, Interstella Software, is founded on a computer game called *Defenda*. It is a copy of a very popular game already available in amusement arcade machines. Two copies of this game are already on the market - game ideas are not covered by copyright, but the computer code is patented - but Alan's code makes a game for the home micro user which is nearer than any other to the arcade original, he says.

The business began by accident. Peter and Alan met in the computer room of Brookhurst Sixth Form College. Peter, in the fourth year, Alan's, noticed his skill at writing codes and they became friends. When they discovered that they both liked the same arcade game Alan started writing a code for a similar game, just for fun. When Peter saw Alan's work on *Defenda*, he proposed they form a company to market it. "I've always

wanted to have my own business," he said. "You never earn a million if you work for other people."

He persuaded his father, who works in finance, to put up the capital to pay for a master tape of the code, sample games, artwork and publicity material. "It appealed to me," said Alan Stevens. Peter's father, "if you do a job where you are responsible for other people's money, it is tempting to take a risk. In fact the costs were about six times what Peter anticipated, but once we were in we had to go on."

They knew the investment would pay off soon after Peter began showing the game to local micro shops. One retailer sent a copy to a game supplier, and the supplier firm offered to buy it and pay royalties. "That was what we wanted," said Peter. "Our name would not have been on the package, and we want our names known so we can obtain the rewards for the new games we're producing."

Peter went to many local shops and got 100 orders, but most retailers preferred to be supplied by large distributing firms. He decided to make direct contact with the distributors.

The game is designed for the Sinclair ZX 48K Spectrum computer, and he wanted to take it to the ZX

Helen Steadman looks
at opportunities
in the Civil Service

Officers may make outside visits - for example, in Customs and Excise they visit traders' premises to discuss VAT returns. In other departments, case-work could involve dealing with correspondence and telephone calls, such as processing farmers' applications for grants in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Many jobs have a financial aspect. The Customs and Excise officers who scrutinise company accounts obviously need to understand accounting procedures. There are some executive officers whose work is wholly financial - perhaps dealing with departmental budgets, or controlling and processing contracts with outside organisations.

Other executive officers are purely administrators, concerned mainly with providing the support necessary to keep any large organisation running smoothly. Their work could involve keeping records, office administration, or the dissemination of information about new regulations. A number of administrative jobs involve some public contact of management responsibility.

A small proportion of executive officers is involved in policy work, acting as assistants to senior civil servants or ministers. They might be involved in researching the effect of a

particular policy, or helping to draft answers to parliamentary questions.

About a third of all executive officers take up more specialised work. In the Inland Revenue, there are tax collectors, responsible for ensuring that tax is paid, and tax officers (Higher Grade), who examine tax returns, and assess taxpayers' entitlements to allowances and reliefs. Examiners in the Insolvency Service deal with the affairs of companies in compulsory liquidation and with partnerships and individuals that have gone bankrupt. Then there are immigration officers, trainee accountants, and employment advisers in the Manpower Services Commission.

Another important area is computer programming, for this, as with all executive officer jobs, the necessary training is provided.

It is possible to express a preference for a particular department, location and type of work when applying for a post. It does help, though, to be flexible, particularly about location, as the majority of vacancies are likely to be in London and the South-east.

Once accepted by the service, one can usually expect to spend at least four years as an executive officer, probably doing more than one type of job, before being considered for promotion to the next grade. For the brightest, graduates or not, there is always the possibility of earlier, accelerated promotion, with opportunities to progress more rapidly up the career ladder.

Microfilm at Alexandra Palace in early February. At the last minute the artwork company let him down, but he found a local printing company which produced the brightly coloured cassette covers in four days.

He took the game, complete with artwork, to the fair, where he met representatives from several major distributors. He came back with 1,600 orders, and Interstella was really in business. It took only one day for Peter and Alan to get the road to despatch 1,000 game cassettes.

The potential market is vast. Two million ZX micros are owned in Britain, and 10,000 more are sold each month. Competition is strong, but the excellent response to Interstella's *Defenda* indicates it will be well received by the micro users. The first advertisement directed at users will appear in April, and Peter has a pile of cassettes stacked in his bedroom in Brookhurst waiting for the orders.

Alan is already working on a new game, and a girl across the road is hoping to study computer science at university. "I suppose a level grades might be better if I wasn't writing codes for games," he said. "But if I was not working on that I would be writing something else."

Sally Hesmondhalgh

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

University Lectureship
in Physiology

In association with Somerville or Queen's College

Applications are invited for the above post. Stipend according to age on the scale £7,190 to £15,085. The successful candidate may be offered a stipendary Tutorship at Somerville College, or a stipendary Lectureship at Queen's College. Further details may be obtained from Professor C. Blakesome, University Laboratory of Physiology, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PT, to whom applications (nine typed copies, or two from overseas applicants) with the names of three referees should be sent by May 14, 1984.

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE
(University of London)DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE
Research Opportunities

Research opportunities are available for students in the following fields: (1) Health and human geography; (2) Economic geography in London's Docklands; (3) Urban and regional planning in Britain and France; (4) Trends in the British space economy (1920-1970).

Physical Geography and Earth Science. Applications are invited for two MSc awards in the following fields: (1) Natural history of the urban boundary layer of the atmosphere; (2) Processes controlling dust emission from wind-eroded soils; (3) The role of vegetation in soil erosion and glacial sedimentation; (4) The ecology of engineering clay soils and their stabilisation to road construction.

Further details from Mrs C. M. Cross, Department of Geography and Earth Science, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS (Tel 01-481 4811, Ext 3409).

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

QUEEN'S ELIZABETH COLLEGE CHELSEA COLLEGE

TWO LECTURESHIPS IN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER STUDIES

The new Department of Information Technology and Applied Computing Studies is being established as part of the restructuring of the University. Initially the Department will be responsible for the development of the Department's research, teaching and administrative activities, and for the provision of a range of courses in information technology and applied computing. Applications are invited for two lectureships in the Department. The successful candidates will be responsible for the development of the Department's research, teaching and administrative activities, and for the provision of a range of courses in information technology and applied computing.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS (Tel 01-584 5500), to whom applications should be sent by 14 May 1984. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS (Tel 01-584 5500).

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Today's television and radio programmes

Royal Fire
9.05 This Week

Soprano. In the works include the *Flauto in C minor Op 35 No 2*, *3rd-pourri on themes from Mozart's Magic Flute*; and the *Concerto in G*, 1808. **10.00** Beethoven, Debussy and Rachmaninov: Piano recital by Susan Howes. She plays Beethoven's *Sonata Op 32 No 2* in E flat minor, Op 35 No 5. **10.40** Dvorak: Czech Philharmonic: *Violin play* by S. Symphonica: *prelude*; and, *Robert Simpson's Symph No 1*, 11.00 News. **1.05** *Enchante Concert*: the *Koenig Ensemble* play *Mozart's Adagio and Rondo in C K 617*.

2.05 Schumann's Chamber Symphony No. 9.
Musik Weekly: second chance to hear Schumann's edition, includes music from Spohr's biocentury, the music of Messiaen; and the Strauss-Grauss correspondence (r,1).

2.55 New Records: Strauss's symphonic poem Don Juan; Arra's Joia (Yapon) and the Dio, the new name is Mander (Don Carlo; Giorgio/Fischer-Schlegel; Wagner's Silesia (Liedt); Liza's Three Sonnets of Petrarch (Crosley, piano); and the Strauss-Grauss correspondence (r,1).

John Dunmore: 6:32 Sport; 6:45 Sport
John Dunmore and Richard
Alan Deal with Dance Band Dyes and Big
Band Art: 9:00 Humphrey Lytheonit.
6:52 Sports: 10:00 Music World
with Ray Moore. 10:30 Star Sound
with Nick Jackson and soundtrack requests.
11:00 Brian Matthew presents Record
Club Stereo from 1945 to 1960.
Charles News presents Nightclub: 3:00-
4:00 Folk on tv.

Radio 1

3:00 pm to 12:00 midnight 1:30 am
News on the half-hour from 5:30 am to 11:30 pm

5.00 *DaVinci's News*
 5.00 *Mainly for Pleasure: another of*
Robert Whelan's songs of
music!
 5.30 *Music for Organ: Recital by*
John Williams on the organ of
St German's Church, Cardiff. He
plays works by Frescobaldi, Bach
and Vivaldi in minor B-flat
Major; and Richard Rodney
Burgin (first broadcast of El
Garritas etc.)
 7.05 *Alec Guinness: The actor plays*
Edward Charles Lyell in Peter
Barnes's monologue
concerning a polymath of the
Terrestrial Natural Recorder and
Communication: Num! Nii! Mark?
 7.30 *Mahler's Tenth Symphony: Part*

6.00 *Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Reid, 9.00*
Simon Bates, 9.30 Gary Lewis, inc.
 10.00 *Newswest, 2.30*
James Long, inc. 5.30 Newswest, 7.00
David Jensen, 10.00-12.00 John Peak,
12.30-2.00 John and 2.30-3.00
 10.00 *With Radio 1, 12.00-4.00 With*
 Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

5.00pm *Newswest, 8.30 Britain's Hall*
 7.00 *World News, 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours,*
 7.30 *Sarah and Company, 8.00 World News,*
 8.30 *World Economy, 8.55*
 9.00 *Pinard Motor City, 8.30 Anything Goes, 9.00*
 9.00 *World News, 9.09 Review of the British Press,*
 9.30 *World News, 9.55 Good News, 9.57*
 10.00 *World News, 10.05 The Future on the*
 10.30 *World News, 10.35 The World News,*
 11.00 *11.15 An Ice Cream War, 11.30*

[illegible]

10.30 Jazz Today: Charles Fox
Later from London. 4.30 Reflections, 5.00
Jazz Today. 5.30 The World of
Strolling Players. (All times in GMT)

11.15 News, Until 11.15
VHF only Open University. 6.35-

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
+ Stereo, *Black and white, (V) Repeat.

VISION VARIATIONS

WTV WEST As London except:
10.15 On Top of the
Tower, 10.40 Film: 'A Cup of Kindness'
'Claus and Viki' News, 11.30
Film: 'The Biggest Bank Robbery (David
Niven), 5.15 Mr & Mrs. 6.00 The World
10.30 Hit Street Blues, 11.30 25th
Anniversary of the Marquee, 12.30
Weather, Closesdown.

TYNE TEES As London except:
starts 9.25-9.30 Larry
11.20 News, 10.31 The Nature of Things,
Eason, 10.41 The Flying Colours
11.45-12.00 Larry
The Lamb, 1.20 North East News, 1.30
Jed, 3.00-4.00 Films: 'The Trials of
Santerro, 5.30-7.00 Northern Life,
10.32 Briefing, 11.15 Film: 'The Devil's
Work, (Diana Dors), 12.45 Things I Carry
With Me.

As London except: 10.25

HV TV WALES As HV TV West except
8.00-7.00 Wales at

CHANNEL As London except 1.20
Channel News, 1.30
Film: Four Days in Dallas, 3.27 Puffin's
Penguin Postcard, 6.00 The Big Game
Program, 8.30 Private Benjamin, 9.30
19.35 Curtain Puller, 10.40 Film: Buttz!
(Steve McQueen), 12.40 News and
Weather in French

YORKSHIRE As London except,
10.25 Greece - The
Hidden Treasures, 10.55 Film: "Black
Blossoms" (Laural and Hardy), 11.50
The Story of the World, 12.40 The
Story of Wins, 2.00-3.30 Film:
"Beyond the Clouds" (Richard
Attenborough) £5.00

OLSTER The Wonderful Stories of
Professor Kitzel, 10.30 The Adventures
of Tom Sawyer, 10.45 Unicorn Tales, 11.
15-11.30 2-2: Contact, 1.20 Lunchtime,
1.30-3.30 Film: The Burglars (Cesar
Shari), 5.15-5.45 Santa Claus Is Good
to Me, 6.00 The New Style, 7.00
10.30 A Prayer For Ustlar, 10.45 Hill
Street Blues, 11.40 News.

GRANADA As London except,
starts 9.25 Alton and
9.30 Sport Billy, 9.55 The Groovie
Ghoules, 10.20 Unicorn Tales, 10.40
Pick Tack, 10.45 The Top Secret
Police, 1.20 Granada Reports, 1.30-
3.30 Film: The World In His Arms
(Gregory Peck), 5.00 Santa Claus
Comes to Town, 5.50 Santa and Mrs.

Calendar, 5:30-7:00 P.M.'s It's A Life's Life.
10:30 **Calendar Commentary.** 11:00 **Hill Country** **Closedown.**

ANGLIA As London except: 10:25 **Carion Time.** 10:40 **Portrait of a Legend (The Beach Boys).** 11:05 **Chefs.** 11:55-12:20 **Walter Watkin.** 1:30 **Angela News.** 1:30 **Film: Seven Days To Noon.** 3:15-3:30 **Carion Time.** 3:30-3:45 **Angela News.** 3:45-4:00 **About Angela.** 5:30-7:00 **Different** **Headlines.** 10:30 **Angela News.** 11:00 **Hill Country.** 11:30-12:00 **Kinder Country.** 12:20 **What Prayer Means to Me.** 11:05 **Closedown.**

TSW As London except: 10:25 **Joe** **90.** 10:50 **The Mystery of the** **Knapp.** 11:40-12:20 **Wheelies and the** **Chopper.** 1:30 **TSW News.** **Headlines.** 1:30 **Film: Four Days in** **the Desert.** 3:15-3:30 **TSW News.** **Magik Birthdays.** 5:15-5:45 **Emmerdale** **Farm.** 6:00 **Today South West.** 8:30-7:00 **Private Secret.** 9:30 **Postcard.** 10:40 **Film: Bullseye (Steve McCuen).** 12:40 **Weather.** **Closedown.**

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

THEATRES

BURN THEATRE 7413 3:50
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 Jonathan Fells. Tues-Sun 8pm.

FORTUNE 545 2534 cc 8:00
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 csi 1101 Evn 8:00. Main Thr

COMEDY 01 540 2578 cc 8:59 1:35
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LYRIC HANSEN 545 CC 741
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Unions' chiefs in secrets clash

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Further conflict between the unions and the Government over the security of classified state papers has emerged in the continuing controversy over TUC representation on the National Economic Development Council.

Two left-wing members of the TUC General Council, Mr Clive Jenkins, of the white-collar union, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, of the National Union of Public Employees, have defied a requirement to sign the Official Secrets Act before receiving confidential documents on the economy.

They were asked to do so last October when they were elected to the TUC's NEDC team of six. But independently both have refused and the demand has been apparently discreetly dropped.

Their action has come to light after confirmation by the general council that its boycott of the NEDC over forced de-unionization at GCHQ will last at least until September.

That decision means that they have no access to "restricted documents" but in the wake of the GCHQ ban the government's attempt to make them sign the Act is likely to excite further union opposition to TUC involvement in the three-party body of union leaders, government appointees and Confederation of British Industry representatives.

Some Conservative MPs also ask what range of state papers union leaders have access to, after the government argument that deunionization of the Civil Service at Cheltenham was necessary partly because full-time union officials had access to staff but had not themselves pledged to observe the secrets law.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Bickerstaffe were unrepentant last night. Mr Jenkins, a sponsor of the Freedom of Information Campaign, argued that it was ridiculous to be asked to sign the Act when 30 other members of the NEDC and officials sat in the room throughout the proceeding and briefing was given to the press after they ended.

Mr Bickerstaffe said: "I think it is unacceptable in 1984 to be asked to sign a bit of paper to say that you will not say anything."

Sale of Old Masters will aid Devonshires to live in style again

From Alan Hamilton, Chatsworth, Derbyshire

"If you are going to live in Chatsworth," observed His Grace the eleventh Duke of Devonshire toting an ill-matched patch in the dining room carpet, "you have to live in some style. There is no point in retreating to a maisonette in the attic."

Frayed carpets, rotting silk wall coverings, and the ever-present menace of a leaking roof are behind the duke's decision to auction 74 old master drawings at Christie's in July, a sale expected to realize more than £6m, and which is already being regarded as the most significant disposal of family heirlooms since the Roseberys abandoned Mentmore.

Negotiations on a direct sale to the British Museum, which would have brought the duke considerable tax advantages, broke down on the issue of price. Now he is taking a gamble, particularly if a foreign buyer such as the Getty Museum is refused an export licence.

High rent

Chatsworth and its 12,000 acres of spectacular parkland have been turned over to a charitable trust to escape the worst pillages of taxation, but it means that the duke has to pay a substantial annual rent to live in the private half of his own family house. The £2.75 collected from the visitor at the door pays only for the upkeep of the public rooms, which are in noticeably better condition than the private quarters.

"The drawings are my own property, and I am free to sell them with the approval of my personal trustees. They have never been on public show," the duke added.

Those to be sold are a mere fraction of a collection of 2,000 drawings, mostly kept in secret store. Four are at present hanging on a wall in the private quarters: a drawing of the Raphael School, two Rembrandt views, and a Van Dyck, the curtains of the adjoining windows closed to prevent fading. The duke's personal favourite, a Rubens of a woman with a milk churn, is not for sale.

The money raised will largely go to refurbishing the private quarters which the duke, at a rough calculation, estimated at 25 rooms. "We

can accommodate, depending on their marital status, a maximum of 14 guests." It will also go to ensuring that the heir to the title, Lord Hartington, is not saddled with the £7m death duties that his father paid when the last duke died in 1950.

The duke said: "If I should ever decide to move out of this place the state would assuredly take it over. If I were to let things slide, the bill to the taxpayer for putting it in order would be enormous."

Aid refused

Andrew Devonshire, a former Tory junior minister who defected to the Social Democrats, is anxious neither to give to the Treasury, nor to receive.

"You may call it hubris, but I have always refused, and will continue to refuse, any form of state aid for Chatsworth. I think it morally wrong for someone with my resources to claim taxpayers' money for this house."

It was the sale of a valued Pousin, together with books from the Chatsworth library for a total of about £3m, that enabled the duke to set up the Chatsworth Trust and relieve himself of the direct burden of a stately home owner. Further sales are probable to top up the fund which runs the public part of the house, he said, but whether it will be art treasures or land remains undecided.

The Devonshire estates extend far beyond Chatsworth but, according to the duke, his agricultural holdings throughout the country make a loss. His profits from owning the rich real estate of Eastbourne seaford, he asserted, merely go to make up the deficit on his farming properties.

Not amused

"The sale of these drawings is to restore and redecorate the private quarters, and to provide the wherewithal for me and my family to live in this house. We used to live in the village, and it was so wrong to see it every day up the hill, standing empty."

The second Duke of Devonshire, who amassed the art collection in the late seventeenth century, would not be amused at its partial disposal, but then he did not have the taxman on his back. In these days of taxation, the duke observed: "You can no longer afford to own anything yourself."



Family seat: The Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Curb on political levy deducted by employers

Continued from page 1

employers to deduct the political levy if the trade union member has signified in writing that he or she does not wish to pay it.

The levy is often deducted automatically and some employers have been known in the past to tell staff requesting not to pay that they would have to apply to the union to get it back, which has not always been easy. Mr King will tell the Commons that the Government

will introduce an amendment in the Lords to cover the point.

The concession is welcomed by Conservative MPs but they do not regard it as meeting the principle of the new clause recommending a contracting in system, which has attracted the support of several former ministers.

Mr John Townend, MP for Bridlington, one of its sponsors, said last night that he would be pressing the issue to a vote.

Leading article, page 13

Pit vote vetoed as extra police are drafted in

Continued from page 1

ing to work and it is expected they will be joined by militant colleagues from Yorkshire. The police will attempt to stop the Yorkshiremen crossing the county border, but it will be less easy to restrict the movements of Lancashire pickets.

At the area's biggest pit, Parkside, near Newton-le-Willows, miners decided by a narrow majority to return

Moderates decline, page 2
On the brink, page 12

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Margaret, as president of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends a reception to be given by the Duke of Westminster at the Berkeley Hotel, London, 6.25.

New exhibitions

Lesley Main: recent paintings; Torrance Gallery, 30 Dundas Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 10.30 to 1, closed Sun (until April 7).

British Art 1900 to 1939, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Inverleith House, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 29).

Works on Paper by John Bellamy, Pier Arts Centre, Sturminster, Dorset; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until April 28).
Robert Medley, paintings, and Robert Macpherson, photographs, two exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until May 20).
Images of India, featuring nineteenth century photographs

from the Jane and Howard Ricketts collection, National Museum of Photography, Princes View, Bradford, West Yorks; Tues to Sat 12 to 8, Sun 2.30 to 6, closed Mon (until April 29).

Silver from the Family Collection, Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 7).
West Oxfordshire Arts Association Members Spring Exhibition, Arts Centre, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 1 and 2.30 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30, closed Mon and Wed (until April 23).
Drawings and paintings by Lennox Dunbar and Ian Howard, Glasgow Art Centre, 12 Washington St, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, 6.30 to 10; Sun 1.30 to 5 (until April 6).

19th and 20th century Scottish paintings, Fine Art Society, 134 Blythswood St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (until April 30).

Sea papers, recent work by Elizabeth Ogilvie, Talbot Rice Arts Centre, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until April 12).

Drawings and Paintings by Tom Wilson Macaulay Gallery, Oak Inn, Stenton, Lothian; Mon to Tues and Thurs to Sat 12 to 5, Sun 12.30 to 5, closed Weds (until April 15).
Prints by Jonathan Robertson and Sue MacKean, Glasgow Print Studio, 128 Ingram St, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 6, Sat 10.30 to 4, closed Sun (until April 24).

Sculpture by Ron Martin, Meadow Place Gallery, 10 Victoria Chambers, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 6, closed Tues (until April 17).
Last chance to see Embroidered samplers drawn from the County Museum's textile collection, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, 10 to 5 (ends today).

Music Giamorgan youth in concert, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Talks and Lectures
John Palmer, by John Wreford, Bath Postal Museum, 51 Great Pulteney St, Bath, 7.30.
New Zealand, by R. Hitchcock, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 6.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Trade Union Bill, completion of report stage.
Lords (2.30): Video Recordings Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries

Births: Hans Christian Andersen, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, Pre-Raphaelite, London, 1827; Emilie Zola, Paris, 1840.
Deaths: Sir James Clark Ross, Polar explorer, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, 1862; Richard Cobden, politician, London, 1865.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes announced on Saturday are: £100,000: 3FW 144099, winner lives in Somerset; £50,000: 8KL 299968 (Merseyside); £25,000: 8LK 881724 (Kent).

Nature notes

The first summer migrants are back. Chiff-chaffs are singing in the trees, like the rhythmic tap of a hammer on a nail; yellow wagtails dart for insects between the feet of cows. Most of the harder birds have started breeding on the moors and mountains, ravens are sitting on eggs in their bulky nests, and golden eagles are repairing their eyries - always so placed that the eagle can spread its great wings and drop straight on to the prey. Robins are finishing their nests, in their colonies in the high boughs the male brings the sticks and the earth, and the female builds. Moorhens are making reed-platforms at the edge of ponds, each pair constructs several of these, and they stand on them nibbling at each other's neck. Eventually one platform will be chosen as the nest.

Most bees are still waiting to come into leaf; even the horse-chestnuts are late this year. On some Norway maples there are stout spikes of bright yellow flowers; when they are blown off by the wind, you see that miniature leaves are just forming at the base of the spike. Butterflies have also been slow to emerge from hibernation, but a few common butterflies are out, feeding on the blossom. D J M

The papers

The Sunday Times says the miners' dispute is rapidly turning into a push by the anti-parliamentary left to reverse the result of last June's general election. "If Mr Thatcher loses, she will be left presiding over a country which is not worth governing."

The Observer adds "the workers are being used as pawns in a desperate struggle for political ends. The Labour party and the TUC should urge caution, adherence to laws of law - and a secret ballot."

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.53
Austria Sch	27.60	26.00
Belgium Fr	82.25	78.25
Canada \$	1.90	1.83
Denmark Kr	14.25	13.55
Spain Ptas	8.38	7.98
France Fr	11.88	11.38
Germany DM	3.87	3.69
Greece Dr	161.00	151.00
Hong Kong \$	216.20	207.50
India Rs	1.27	1.21
Italy Lira	2400.00	2300.00
Japan Yen	338.00	322.00
Netherlands Gld	4.38	4.16
Norway Kr	11.30	10.70
Portugal Esc	197.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.97	1.83
Sweden Kr	11.60	11.02
Switzerland Fr	3.22	3.05
USA \$	1.48	1.43
Netherlands Dfl	184.00	174.00

Retail Price Index: 344.0.
London: The FT index closed down 4.8 on Friday at 871.
New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 5.8 on Friday at 1164.39.

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Roads

Wales and West: M5 Northbound slip road between junctions 16 and 17, diversions operate via A38. At junction 16 hard shoulder and lane 1 closed due to carriageway reconstruction. Delays during holiday period. A30 (Corwall) Lane closures on the Launceston-by-pass between Launceston and the Indian Queens. A361 (Somerset): Temporary traffic signals North-east of Taunton. A12 at Bentley, on Ipswich to Colchester Rd, Suffolk, contraflow. A34 (Warwickshire): Temporary traffic signals in operation south of Shipston at Tidmington. M5 (Birmingham) Contraflow system operates between junction 3 (Birmingham) and 4 Bromsgrove.

North: A189 (Northumberland): Resurficing work along Spine road north of Blythe at Glaxo. A68 (on Durham) Improvement scheme between Park Wall and Tow Law. Traffic lights: A54 (Cheshire): Drainage work at various locations controlled by traffic lights causing delays between A49 and Winsford.

Scotland: A76 (Aberdeenshire) South of the junction with the A719, SE of Kilmarnock, realignment work, single line traffic and temporary traffic lights. A8 (Glasgow): High Street, Edinburgh, road works, replacement, width restrictions. Edinburgh: West approach road at Grove Street Bridge, bridge repairs, one lane only each way.

Information supplied by the A.A.

Green Line strike

There will be no Green Line coaches or London Country Buses until midnight tonight because of a 24-hour strike over pay.

The week's walks

Today: Riverside Pubs, Prisons and Hidden Paths, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. Legal London including Old Bailey, Inns of Court and Royal Courts of Justice, meet St Paul's Underground, 2pm. Haunted East End and Pub Walk, meet Whitechapel Underground, 7pm. Tuesday: Spectacular St James's, clubs, pubs and palaces, meet Green Park Underground, 7.30pm. Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground (Kingsway exit), 9.50. Ghosts of the West End (finishes in a public house), meet Embankment Underground, 7.30pm. Tudor and Stuart London, meet St Paul's Underground, 11am. An Historic Pub Walk - Dickens's hostilities, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30pm. Legal London, meet St Paul's Underground, 11am (full day tour).

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure extends SW over the British Isles from an anticyclone centred to the NE of Scotland.

6am to midnight

London, SE, E, England, East Angles: Scattered snow showers, sunny intervals, wind N moderate occasionally fresh; max temp 5C (43F).

Central and NW England, Midlands: Isolated snow showers, sunny intervals, wind NE light or moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Channel Islands SW England, S Wales: Dry, sunny periods, wind variable light, max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, NE Scotland, N Ireland: Mostly dry, sunny periods, wind variable light, max temp 10C (50F).

North: Dry, sunny periods, wind variable light, max temp 10C (50F).
South: Dry, sunny periods, wind variable light, max temp 10C (50F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea Strait of Dover: Wind SE, moderate, p-showers; visibility, good; sea very rough becoming slight. English Channel: Wind SE, moderate, p-showers; visibility, good; sea very rough becoming slight. English Channel: Wind SE, moderate, p-showers; visibility, good; sea very rough becoming slight.

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Letter from Washington

Staying ginned up to torture English

Where the rubber meets the road, so to speak, is where you first meet the language of Washington. It is where people pull little red wagons, stay ginned up, sprinkle holy water and keep up to snuff. They are torturing English to death, if you get my drift.

The State Department is a ghastly building in an area of town appropriately called Foggy Bottom. Its corridors are arrow-straight, empty of any adornment that might ameliorate the high-gloss institutional greens and greys. These windowless tunnels are punctuated at precise intervals by doors shielding solitary figures doing unsung jobs. Herein lie many of the perpetrators of the jargon of Government Town.

It would be unfair to lay all the blame on the State Department. One must give due acknowledgement to the role of the Pentagon, which is said to house more office workers than any building in the world. Here, too, they are violent with the English language.

Both departments as far as Washington jargon is concerned, are (to use the vernacular) from the same sheet of music. In every other respect theirs is a relationship of pure, unspoiled hatred. They share the whole nine yards of this almost impenetrable, jarring tongue. The monkey, it is important to understand, is on both backs.

Washington thrives at all levels. It grows and changes like the very English language it purports to represent. Even an outsider who reaches into the Pentagon, the State Department, or indeed any of the other large departments of Government, is not spared the tongue. One feels intimidated. They whip it on you. The cheese gets binding, for sure.

The politically appointed bureaucrats will talk about what the traffic will bear, the stress factor, sometimes used to describe how far they think they can push the electorate. Those with feet held to the fire are going through the acid test and should they fail they might get their water cut off - which means losing critical support.

Much of this nonsense, so they say down at the Pentagon, originates from a respect for the nimble one-liners - sometimes known as straight-liners - heard for many years

on the television series MASH. Out-obfuscating the other guy is up to speed (in line with current standards).

None of this, probably, floats your boat (meets with approval). Perhaps it is all a bit of a stem winder (boring). What does it mean? Where the rubber meets the road is the shop floor, the grass roots. To pull your little red wagon, clearly, is to do your job. The whole nine yards is the entire problem. To be ginned up to be composed, in control. Up to snuff is the meeting of current standards.

To sprinkle holy water, as will be obvious, is to give approval. And the cheese gets binding, inexplicably, has something to do with the raising of tension.

Above, beyond and almost out of sight of any other perpetrator of this esoteric language is the high priest of tortured English himself, Mr Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State. He inspired Haigography, a personalized encyclopaedia. He used to talk about functional priority areas and the exacerbation of mutual restraint. "And so," he said, "I caveat it that way."

Pentagonese has given us infamous little expressions like: "Hell, that guy's good. He hit the ground running." Obviously, the guy got off to a splendid start. In that rabbit warren of a building people are frequently said to have their feet in cement or to be rattling somebody's chain.

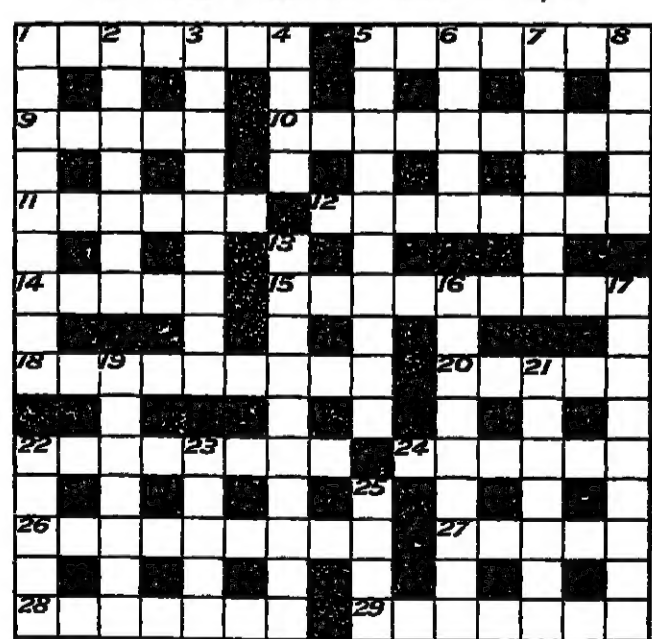
The US Navy Times recently stated on its front page that "at least a cursory knowledge of this jargon is needed for effective communication in your day-to-day operation."

Some real monsters have fallen from the lips of Mr David Stockman, head of the Office of Management and Budget - a department which boasts a splendid new office building around the corner from the White House. It is a veritable hot-bed of bureau-speak. Mr Stockman, famous for his tricked-out theory, has now given us "prioritize" to describe what he is doing with President Reagan's economic measures.

Mr Reagan is no mean hand himself, given his preoccupation with avoiding quick-fix solutions and hunkering down. His White House spokesman is called Speakes and that, perhaps, says it all.

Christopher Thomas

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,394



- ACROSS
- Lowered by degrees indeed! (7).
 - Many proposals - might be money in them (7).
 - Group backing for the carpenter's project (5).
 - Fish and four IRA members give mock serenade (9).
 - Bird seen in fairies' retreat (6).
 - A number come in looking half frozen (8).
 - Assign a tax return (5).
 - First milk on farm given by workers? (9).
 - Silly fool of a railwayman using wrong line (9).
 - Nutty naval chief? (5).
 - Thus one is in airport, and that's what you want (8).
 - Lake meeting one's double returning from Italian town (6).
 - Boys of a bygone period (9).
 - Tearful occupant of nursery bed (5).
- DOWN
- Ancient hymn for birthday, possibly - about March 1 (9).
 - Pernicious prohibition on fuel distribution (7).
 - One only partly dressed? (9).
 - Don. love! (4).
 - Liquor made by public school old boys (10).
 - Man of religion - and sound cook? (5).
 - Excuse made by girl - no-one's upset (7).
 - Music for the golfer? (5).
 - Robust as Jack was, perhaps (4-6).
 - To convey great emotion? (9).
 - Some words about one form of consciousness (9).
 - Overdraft is permitted (7).
 - Judgment of work in duplicate - nothing in it (7).
 - Cut in cash earned? (5).
 - Roots twisting the trunk (5).
 - Rising divorce centre's heavy blow (4).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,393 will appear next Saturday

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